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The Truth Speaks

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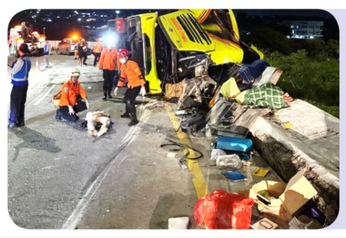

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"The law applies to leaders of all parties. Why is only the BJP opposing it? The bill is being implemented to protect peace. BJP is strongly opposing because they indulge in hate speech."
—Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

Only provocative speakers oppose Hate Speech Bill: CM

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah defended the Hate Speech Bill, saying only those making inflammatory remarks were opposing it

MYSURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said opposition to the proposed Hate Speech Regulation Bill was coming only from those who indulge in provocative and inflammatory speeches. He maintained that people who refrain from making such statements have nothing to fear, as no cases would be registered against them.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah questioned the BJP's strong reaction to the Bill, remarking that those who have not committed any wrongdoing should not feel threatened. Citing a Kannada proverb, he said there was no reason to react defensively if one was not guilty. He rejected claims that the Bill targets specific individuals or parties, asserting that it would apply equally to leaders across the political spectrum.

The Chief Minister said the legislation was aimed at preserving peace and communal harmony, noting that instances of hate speech had risen in recent years. He alleged that the BJP's opposition stemmed from its frequent use of divisive rhetoric and asked whether hate speech could ever contribute to social stability.

His remarks came amid criticism from Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, who accused the Congress-led government of attempting to impose an "undeclared Emergency" through the Bill. She said the Belagavi legislature session should have focused on North Karnataka's issues instead of introducing the hate speech law. Responding to other allegations, Siddaramaiah dismissed claims of misappropriation under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, stating that funds are transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts. He clarified that payments for February and March were yet to be released and would be verified before disbursal.

On internal party matters, Siddaramaiah said no individual is bigger than the Congress and that leadership decisions rest with the party high command, whose decision he would accept.

What does it propose?

The Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025 proposes 2–10 years' imprisonment for offenders and introduces collective liability for organisations involved in hate-related offences. The Karnataka govt argued that the Bill is required because no existing Indian law explicitly defines or addresses hate speech, exposing a long-standing gap in the country's criminal framework despite frequent public debates on the issue.

Hindu outfit seeks Governor's intervention

BENGALURU: The Hindu Janajagruti Samiti, a right-wing organisation, has urged Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to withhold assent to a bill aimed at curbing hate speech and hate crime, terming it "unconstitutional" and a "serious threat" to freedom of speech and religious liberty. In a memorandum, the representatives of the organisation and other outfits opposed the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, and warned that its provisions could be misused, like suppressing dissent. It claimed that the bill is "vague, overbroad and unconstitutional, and poses a serious threat to freedom of speech guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, as well as to religious freedom."

After Hadi, another student leader shot in B'desh

DHAKA

Unidentified gunmen on Monday targeted another youth leader in Bangladesh, just days after the death of prominent student activist Sharif Osman Hadi, who succumbed to gunshot injuries in a Singapore hospital last week.

Motaleb Sikder, a student leader, was shot in the head in Khulna city, located in south-western Bangladesh. He was immediately rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital in critical condition, according to The Daily Star. Hospital sources, cited by The Kaler Kantha newspaper, reported that Sikder was bleeding heavily upon arrival. Doctors initiated emergency treatment, and the officer-in-charge later confirmed that Sikder was out of danger. The bullet reportedly entered near one ear, pierced the skin, and exited through the other side without causing fatal damage.

The attack follows the high-profile killing of Sharif Osman Hadi, a 32-year-old Inqilab Mancha spokesperson and key figure in the student-led protests last year that contributed to the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government. Hadi was shot by masked assailants on December 12 during an election campaign in Dhaka's Bijoynagar area. He was undergoing treatment in Singapore when he died on Thursday. Hadi had been a candidate for the upcoming February 12 general elections.

Sikder's shooting has intensified concerns over escalating violence targeting youth leaders in Bangladesh, highlighting the continued unrest and fragile security environment in the country. Authorities are investigating both incidents to track down the perpetrators and ensure public safety.

Who is Motaleb Sikder?

Motaleb Sikder is a leader of National Citizen Party (NCP) and heads the Khulna Division head of party and also serves as its workers front's central coordinator, as per the statement released by the outfit after the shooting incident. Sikder, 42, reportedly was a key part of Bangladesh's violent student-led 2004 uprising. Sikder is a resident of Sheikhpara Palli in Sonadanga. Miscreants opened fire at around 11:45 am, targeting Sikder's head, near Gazi Medical College Hospital in the city.

CM, DCM working like brothers: Pilot

BENGALURU

Playing down reports of a power tussle within the Karnataka Congress, AICC General Secretary Sachin Pilot on Monday said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar are working together harmoniously and would accept any decision taken by the party high command.

Speaking to reporters with Shivakumar seated beside him, Pilot said the issue was settled as Shivakumar had referred to Siddaramaiah as his elder brother, while the Chief Minister had called him his younger brother. He said the Karnataka government was functioning with integrity and dedication, and that the Congress was fulfilling all promises made before the elections.

Pilot expressed confidence that the party would return to power in the state with a strong majority in 2028. He said every Congress worker in Karnataka would abide by the leadership's decision, stressing that the party's focus remained on governance and delivery.

Siddaramaiah denies post-Sankranti 'revolution'

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday reiterated that all decisions regarding the Congress party in the state are determined by the high command. Speaking in Mysuru while hearing public grievances, he emphasized, "I am making it clear once and for all. The Congress high command's decisions are final. I have spoken with the high command and they will announce their decision. That ends everything."

To a query on speculations over a "revolution" (kranti) after Sankranti (January 14), the Chief Minister said, "There is no revolution, or anything of the sort. Whatever the situation, the party high command's decision is final".

Responding to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's suggestion that party issues could be resolved locally, Siddaramaiah noted, "Whatever issues exist in the party, the high command will resolve them."

K'taka man kills pregnant daughter over inter-caste marriage

HUBBALLI

A 20-year-old pregnant woman and her unborn child died after she was allegedly beaten by her father for marrying a Dalit man in Karnataka's Hubballi taluk. Police have arrested three people, including the woman's father, in connection with the crime.

The victim, Manya Patil, sustained severe head injuries during an attack at Inam Veerapura village under Hubballi Rural police limits and died at a private hospital on Sunday, December 22. Her unborn child also did not survive. Her husband's parents were injured and are undergoing treatment.

According to Dharwad Superintendent of Police Gunjan Arya, Manya's father, Prakashgouda Patil, along with relatives, assaulted her at her husband's residence using weapons such as an axe and an iron sprinkler pipe. The attack took place around 6.30 pm, and she succumbed to her injuries about three hours later. Manya had married Vivekananda, from the Madar caste, earlier this year after the two met in college. The marriage had faced strong opposition from her family despite prior police warnings.

More on page 4

HC seeks Sonia, Rahul Gandhi's response in National Herald case

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued notices to Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, seeking their response on an appeal filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) challenging a trial court order that had refused to take cognisance of the ED's chargesheet in the National Herald money laundering case.

The trial court had earlier dismissed the complaint against the Gandhis and others, observing that the case was based on a private complaint filed by Dr. Subramanian Swamy under Section 200 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and not on a First Information Report (FIR), making cognisance legally impermissible. The court also noted that it would be premature to consider the merits of the allegations at this stage, including any fresh FIR registered by the Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the ED, argued that the trial court's order was flawed and could set a precedent affecting other similar cases. Justice Ravinder Dudeja, after hearing submissions from both sides, posted the matter for further hearing on March 12, 2026.

The ED alleges that Young Indian, a company in which Sonia and Rahul Gandhi each reportedly hold a 38% stake, acquired the debt of Associated Journals Limited, the publisher of National Herald, for a nominal sum of Rs 50 lakh. This transaction allegedly enabled Young Indian to control AJL's real estate assets nationwide, valued at nearly Rs 2,000 crore. Other accused include Suman Dubey, Sam Pitroda, Dotex Merchandise, and Sunil Bhandari.

QUICK READ

H-1B visa holders stranded in India as interviews delayed

NEW DELHI: Indian H-1B visa holders returning to India this month for work permit renewals are stranded after US consular offices abruptly rescheduled appointments, according to immigration lawyers cited by the Washington Post. Appointments between December 15–26 were postponed due to the US government's expanded social media vetting policy, now applied to all H-1B and H-4 applicants. Lawyers reported dozens of affected clients, raising concerns for employers awaiting their return.

Govt committed to Aravallis, Yadav denies Cong claims

NEW DELHI: Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Monday strongly refuted Congress allegations, calling them "misinformation and lies" regarding the redefinition of the Aravalli Hills and Range. Speaking at a press briefing, he emphasized that the Modi government remains fully committed to protecting and restoring the Aravallis, with legal mining allowed in only 0.19% of the total area across Rajasthan, Haryana, and Gujarat. Delhi, which has five Aravalli districts, permits no mining.

INDIA–NEW ZEALAND FTA

India, New Zealand announce conclusion of FTA negotiations

NEW DELHI

India and New Zealand on Monday announced the successful conclusion of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), describing it as historic, ambitious and mutually beneficial. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephone conversation with his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon, during which the two leaders confirmed that talks on the pact had been wrapped up.

In a video message, Luxon said the agreement would create major opportunities for New Zealand farmers, growers and businesses by expanding exports, generating jobs and boosting incomes. He added that New Zealand's exports to India are projected to rise from about USD 1.1 billion to USD 1.3 billion annually over the next 20 years. Highlighting India's scale, Luxon said the FTA would provide Kiwi businesses access to a fast-growing market of nearly 1.4 billion consumers.

According to official statements, the agreement is expected to be formally signed within the next three months and implemented sometime next year. As part of the pact, New Zealand has committed to facilitating investments worth USD 20 billion in India over the next 15 years.

India's commerce ministry said the deal provides duty-free access for Indian goods, with New Zealand agreeing to eliminate tariffs on 100 per cent of its tariff lines. This is expected to significantly enhance the competitiveness of India's labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, marine products, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, engineering goods and automobiles.

Highlights of FTA

- Zero Duty market access on 100 per cent of India's exports.
- Dedicated quota of Temporary Employment Entry visa for 5,000 professionals and 1,000 Work and Holiday Visas.
- New Zealand has committed to facilitate investments of USD 20 billion into India over the next fifteen years.
- Launched on March 16th 2025, the fastest with a Developed Country FTA concludes the year on a high note for all Indian exports including textiles, pharmaceuticals, leather, Engineering Goods, Agricultural products

District-Level 'Guarantee' Convention on Dec 23: Preparatory Review Meeting Held in M'luru

MANGALURU

A preparatory progress review meeting ahead of the district-level Guarantee Scheme Convention scheduled for December 23 was held at the Mangaluru Taluk Panchayat Hall on Friday. The meeting was chaired by Surendra Kambli, President of the Mangaluru Taluk Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee.

The meeting primarily focused on arrangements for the district-level convention to be held at the Town Hall (Purabhavana) in Mangaluru. Members discussed logistical planning to ensure the smooth participation of beneficiaries from both urban and rural areas of the district. Officials concerned were instructed to make adequate arrangements for KSRTC buses to transport beneficiaries to the venue on the day of the convention.

Officials also informed the meeting that special stalls would be set up at the venue to facilitate registration for the 'Yuvanidhi' scheme. The initiative is aimed at enabling eligible youth to enrol on the spot and access benefits under the government's employment support programme.

Welcoming the departmental officials, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer and committee member Mahesh Kumar Holla underlined the importance of coordinated efforts among departments to ensure the effective implementation of guarantee schemes. He stressed that such conventions play a crucial role in spreading awareness and addressing beneficiary grievances directly.

District Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee member Alston D'Cunha and taluk-level committee members Prashanth S., Nawaz, Shaila Neeta D'Souza, Ritesh Anchan, Vidya, Sridhar Panja and Mohammed Musthafa participated in the discussions and offered suggestions to improve outreach and execution.

Also present at the meeting were Taluk Panchayat Assistant Accounts Officer Parameshwara, Taluk Panchayat Manager Suvarna Hegde, Subject Manager Aris, Taluk IEC Coordinator Nishmita B., along with officials from various departments associated with the implementation of guarantee schemes.

Officials expressed confidence that the December 23 convention would help strengthen the delivery of welfare schemes by ensuring direct engagement with beneficiaries and addressing implementation challenges at the grassroots level. The administration has been asked to complete all preparatory work well in advance to ensure the success of the district-level event.

M'luru Cong Protest Against Centre; Police Stop March Towards BJP Office

MANGALURU

Protesting the Centre's recent decision to change the name of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Congress workers took to the streets in Mangaluru on Monday. The demonstration, which began near Mallikatte Congress Bhavana, escalated as protesters attempted to march to the nearby BJP office, but were blocked by police.

Activists from the Dakshina Kannada District Congress gathered at Mallikatte, condemning the Union government's move to rename the landmark rural employment programme. From there, they proceeded on foot towards the BJP office located at PVS, intending to stage a sit-in protest. However, law enforcement personnel intercepted the group and detained several protesters to prevent any breach of public order.

Senior Congress leaders took part in the demonstration, including Legislative Council member Dr. Manjunath Bhandari, MLC Ivan D'Souza, former minister Ramanath Rai, District Congress President Hareesh Kumar, former MLA J.R. Lobo, M.A. Gaffoor, Inayat Ali and others. The party members sought to voice their dissent over what they described as an unjust and politically motivated decision by the central government.

The protest reflects growing discontent among opposition parties and sections of the public over policy changes to long-standing welfare schemes. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been a flagship programme aimed at providing livelihood security; any alteration in its identity has triggered criticism from political rivals who argue it undermines the legacy of the scheme.

Police maintained that the action to halt the march was taken under provisions that ensure public safety and prevent disruption. No major clashes were reported, and the situation remained largely calm after law enforcement stepped in. Party leaders indicated they would continue raising their objections through peaceful rallies and public meetings in the coming days.

Local residents observed heightened activity in the Mallikatte area during the protest, with commuters and shopkeepers noting stepped-up police presence. The district administration has yet to issue a formal response to the concerns raised by the Congress party regarding the scheme's renaming.

Master Trainers Program on Industrial Automation and Robotics Concludes at NITK Surathkal

MANGALURU

A 10-day Master Trainers Training Program (MTTP) on Industrial Automation and Robotics concluded today at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal, marking a significant step towards strengthening India's automation and robotics skill ecosystem.

The programme, was jointly organised by the Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya Centre for Training Master Trainers in Skill Development (MVCTMTSD), Chikkaballapura, a subsidiary of the Society for "Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya National Training Facility for Skills for All (BMVNTFSA)" under the Government of Karnataka, in collaboration with NITK Surathkal.

Aimed at capacity building, the programme trained 30 faculty members drawn from Government ITIs, Government Tool Room and Training Centres (GTTCs), Government Polytechnics, Karnataka Government Tool and Training Institutes (KGTTIs), and Government Engineering Colleges across Karnataka. The participants were trained as Master Trainers to enable them to transfer advanced skills and industry-relevant knowledge to students in their respective institutions.

The curriculum combined theoretical concepts with intensive hands-on training in key areas such as industrial sensors and actuators, programmable logic controllers (PLCs), industrial control systems, Internet of Things (IoT), unmanned vehicles, and robotics applications. Emphasis was placed on laboratory demonstrations and real-world industrial use cases to align academic training with current industry requirements.

Training sessions were conducted at the Automation Laboratory of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, NITK, and were coordinated by Dr Navin Karnath P., Dr Arun Kumar Shettigar, Dr Mervin A. Herbert and Dr Pruthviraj U.

The programme concluded with a valedictory ceremony held at the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Prof. S.M. Murigendrappa, Head of the Department, attended as Chief Guest and lauded the collaborative initiative, urging participants to effectively disseminate the acquired knowledge. Prof. Vijay Desai, Advisor to the MTTP Board, stressed the need for continuous upskilling of trainers to bridge the academia–industry gap, while Prof. K.V. Gangadharan highlighted the strategic importance of such programmes in strengthening the national skill development framework.

Organisers said the programme would play a vital role in creating a skilled workforce ready for emerging technologies in automation and robotics.

Release Withheld Funds for M'luru Development, Says MLA Kamath

MANGALURU

With development works across the Mangaluru City Corporation limits coming to a standstill, MLA Vedavyas Kamath has urged the State Congress government to immediately release pending funds in the larger public interest. Raising the issue during the ongoing Belagavi legislature session, the MLA alleged that the city has been starved of development grants for the past two-and-a-half years.

Kamath said that no funds had been released for basic civic works, including road repairs, during this period. He pointed out that even projects announced in the State Budget have remained incomplete due to fund constraints. Citing the Mahatma Gandhi Nagar Vikas Yojana–I, he said that although ₹150 crore was sanctioned for Mangaluru, only ₹35 crore has been released so far.

"As the remaining funds have been withheld, most development works have been left half-finished. In many places, even dug-up roads and pits cannot be restored due to lack of money," Kamath told the House. He warned that residents are facing daily hardships and that public patience is wearing thin, urging the government to take the situation seriously.

The MLA further questioned how development could be ensured when there is neither special assistance for the city corporation nor the release of previously sanctioned grants. He noted that the tenure of elected representatives in the Mangaluru City Corporation has ended and that the Deputy Commissioner has taken charge as administrator.

"In the absence of an elected council, even small works require approval from the Deputy Commissioner. This has slowed down governance and affected civic services," Kamath said. He demanded that the government respond positively and extend full cooperation to facilitate development works in the constituency.

Kamath stressed that Mangaluru, being a major urban centre and economic hub of coastal Karnataka, deserves timely financial support. He called upon the State government to immediately clear pending dues and ensure that stalled projects are completed without further delay, so that normalcy is restored and public inconvenience is minimised.

Festivals Should Be Celebrated Beyond Caste and Religion: Khader Sha at Christmas Event in M'luru

MANGALURU

Stating that festivals are meant for collective joy and harmony, Dakshina Kannada District Information Officer Khader Sha said the true spirit of celebrations is realised only when people come together beyond barriers of caste, religion and faith. He was speaking after inaugurating the Christmas celebrations by cutting a cake at a programme jointly organised by the All India Charoli Chutuku Sahitya Parishat, Raymond D'Cunha Takode, St Aloysius Deemed to be University – School of Language and Cultural Studies, and the Konkani Sangha.

Addressing the gathering, Khader Sha said festivals are occasions for everyone to rejoice together and strengthen social harmony. "When festivals are celebrated forgetting differences of caste, religion and creed, the happiness becomes meaningful and lasting," he observed.

Presiding over the programme, Fr Dr Praveen Martin, Vice-Chancellor of St Aloysius Deemed to be University, said human beings exist to become symbols of love. "Though our lifestyles may differ, we are all bound by the thread of love, which should guide our actions," he said.

Dakshina Kannada Working Journalists' Association president Pushparaj B.N. remarked that caste, religion and faith are legacies passed on by elders, but society's real contribution should be love and compassion for all. S.L. Prashanth Shet said such Christmas celebrations should be held at more places to promote companionship and unity.

Karnataka State Journalists' Association member Srinivasa Nayak Indaje described St Aloysius College as an institution that thrives in an atmosphere of love and inclusivity.

Several dignitaries, including DK Working Journalists' Association secretary Rajesh K. Poojary, vice-presidents Rajesh Shetty and Wilfred Lobo, executive member Sandeep, Rotary Club of Mangaluru Central president Bhaskar Rai Katt, Tulu researcher Geetha Lakshmeesh, social worker Lolacchi Fernandes, Konkani Department HOD Flora Castelino, and programme coordinator Renita Arana, were present on the dais.

A multilingual poets' meet featured poems in Tulu, Kannada, Konkani, Beary and English. Students presented Christmas carols and skits in multiple languages, followed by brass band performances, Santa Claus celebrations and distribution of traditional kuswar sweets, adding colour and festive cheer to the event.

Police Register Suo Motu Case Over Alleged Misleading SDPI Protest Videos

MANGALURU

Police have registered a suo motu complaint at the Bantwal Rural Police Station after video clips from an SDPI protest meeting held in Mangaluru on Friday were widely circulated on social media, allegedly containing misleading and false information.

According to the police, an examination of the viral video clips revealed that selective portions of judgments delivered by various courts were presented to the public in a distorted manner, with the intention of creating confusion and misinforming people. Officials said the videos appeared to highlight only chosen excerpts of court rulings, while ignoring the broader context, thereby potentially misleading viewers.

In view of this, police have taken up the matter on their own and registered a case. Authorities stated that a detailed inquiry is underway and that appropriate legal action will be initiated based on the outcome of the investigation. More information will be shared once the probe progresses, police added.

Police sources noted that selectively quoting court judgments could falsely portray organisations in a particular light. For instance, they pointed out that in May 2023, the Karnataka High Court had dismissed a petition filed by the SDPI challenging the seizure of its Mangaluru office under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). However, officials cautioned that selectively citing such rulings alone could be misused to suggest links with terrorist or anti-national activities, which requires careful legal interpretation.

Similarly, police referred to an earlier communal murder case in the district in which an SDPI gram panchayat member is an accused and remains in judicial custody after multiple bail pleas were rejected by courts. Officials said that selectively referring to such cases and extrapolating them to label the entire organisation or demand the resignation of all its members would be misleading.

Police emphasised that presenting only parts of court verdicts amounts to the spread of misinformation. They urged protest organisers to first reflect on such issues internally and appealed to the public to remain vigilant against false narratives and misinformation circulated through social media platforms.

The police reiterated that freedom of expression must be exercised responsibly and within the framework of law, warning that attempts to mislead the public using distorted legal references would invite strict action.

8th Manipal Marathon Scheduled for February 8; Nearly 20,000 Runners Expected

MANIPAL

The eighth edition of the Manipal Marathon will be held on February 8, 2026, with the race starting and concluding at KMC Greens, Manipal. The event is expected to draw nearly 20,000 runners, including over 100 international athletes, competing for a total prize pool exceeding ₹25 lakh.

Addressing reporters here on Monday, MAHE Pro-Chancellor Dr H S Ballal said this year's marathon is anchored in the theme "Miles for a Greener Tomorrow", with the tagline "Run for a Sustainable Future." He said the marathon aims to combine sporting excellence with a strong message on environmental sustainability.

The Manipal Marathon 2026 will feature five race categories—the 42 km Full Marathon, 21 km Half Marathon, 10 km run, 5 km run, and a 3 km Fun Run—catering to participants across age groups and fitness levels. Runners are expected from across India and several countries including Dubai, England, Ethiopia, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the United States.

The race day schedule will begin with the 42 km Full Marathon at 5 am, followed by the 21 km Half Marathon at 5.30 am, 10 km run at 6 am, 5 km run at 6.45 am, and the 3 km Fun Run at 8 am. Special category races for physically and visually challenged participants will be flagged off at 8.30 am. A post-run carnival will be held at KMC Greens.

One of the highlights of the event is the scenic beachside route for the full marathon, which offers runners a distinctive racing experience. This year, a new route has been introduced for the 10 km race, leading to the Manipal Hospice Respite Centre.

Congress Govt Targeting Hindu Traditions, Alleges MP Brijesh Chowta

MANGALURU

Alleging that the state Congress government is resorting to "Tughlaq-style governance" to stop the centuries-old traditional Kepu Ullalti Koli Anka (cockfight), BJP MP Captain Brijesh Chowta on Monday said such actions amounted to an attack on Hindu religious sentiments.

Addressing a joint press conference at the BJP district office in Dakshina Kannada in the presence of party legislators, Chowta accused the government of using the pretext of gambling and illegal activities to deploy police and prevent the traditional event. He warned that any attempt to hurt the religious sentiments of the Hindu community would not be tolerated.

Chowta alleged that since Chief Minister Siddaramaiah-led Congress government came to power, it has consistently followed anti-Hindu policies. "Hindu beliefs are being targeted, Hindu activists are being suppressed, and Hindu organisations are being curbed. It is shameful that cases are now being registered in connection with traditional practices like koli anka, yakshagana, and kambala," he said.

He pointed out that district in-charge ministers had assured in review meetings that no steps would be taken to hurt religious sentiments, yet such incidents continue to occur. With several temple festivals, kola and nema rituals scheduled in the coming days, Chowta warned that the BJP would strongly oppose any attempt to disrupt Hindu traditions on flimsy grounds. He added that the Kepu Ullalti Koli Anka issue would be pursued through legal means.

QUICK READ

PU College Student Dies After Drowning in Tunga River in Shivamogga

Shivamogga

A tragic drowning incident claimed the life of a pre-university student in the Tunga River at Pillangiri village in Shivamogga taluk on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Prem Kumar (17), a resident of Kamakshi Street, Shivamogga city. According to police, Prem Kumar, who was studying at DVS College, had travelled to Pillangiri with friends. While near a temple, he and his companions entered the Tunga River to swim. Unfortunately, Prem Kumar reportedly slipped and drowned in the deep waters. Local police from Shivamogga Rural Police Station visited the site, conducted preliminary checks and coordinated with emergency responders. The teenager's body was later taken to Meggan Hospital for post-mortem and further procedures.

Madikeri District Hospital Tops Natural Delivery Rankings; Gonikoppal CHC Secures Second Place

MADIKERI

Kodagu district has secured the second position in Karnataka in terms of natural deliveries conducted in government hospitals, reflecting growing public confidence in the public healthcare system. Within the district, Madikeri District Hospital has emerged as the top performer, while the Community Health Centre (CHC) at Gonikoppal in Ponnampet taluk has secured the second position.

Despite the presence of taluk hospitals at Somwarpet, Kushalnagar and Virajpet, a significant number of deliveries in Kodagu are being conducted at the Gonikoppal CHC. The centre has gained prominence due to the dedicated service of just two doctors — gynaecologist Dr Greeshma Bhojamma and anaesthetist Dr Suresh — who together handle more than 100 outpatients daily while also managing deliveries in both day and night shifts.

According to official data, the Gonikoppal CHC recorded 452 natural deliveries and 158 caesarean sections in the recent assessment period, taking the total number of deliveries to 610. Health officials credit this achievement to the coordinated efforts of the doctors, nursing staff and support personnel, whose commitment has helped the centre earn a strong reputation for maternal healthcare services.

Two months ago, the transfer of both doctors as part of a mass reshuffle had triggered concern among residents, as no alternative doctors were posted at the centre. Following intervention by Virajpet MLA A.S. Ponnanna, District Guarantee Implementation Committee president Dharmaja Uthappa, District Health Officer Satish and Taluk Health Officer Dr Yatiraj, the matter was taken up with the Health Department Commissioner. This resulted in orders being issued to reappoint both doctors to the Gonikoppal CHC.

The doctors have been serving at the centre for over 12 years, and their long association has played a key role in encouraging pregnant women and patients to opt for government hospitals over private facilities. However, officials point out that the centre, which currently has only two permanent doctors, urgently requires specialists in orthopaedics, ENT and surgery. Local representatives have urged the district administration and the in-charge minister to take steps to fill these vacancies.

Amid stiff competition from private hospitals, the increasing preference for government healthcare facilities in Kodagu has been described as a significant and positive development.

Jeep Carrying School Children Overturns in Chikkamagaluru; Six Kerala Students Injured

CHIKKAMAGALURU

A Jeep carrying schoolchildren overturned on Monday on the Mullayyanagiri route in Chikkamagaluru district, leaving six students from Kerala with minor injuries. Fortunately, none of the injuries are life-threatening, police said.

The incident occurred when a group of students from a school in Kerala was on an educational tour in Chikkamagaluru. Due to the unavailability of bus transport near Mullayyanagiri peak, the travel agency had arranged local rental Jeeps to transfer the children to the sightseeing spot. According to eyewitnesses, the driver of the Jeep was reportedly speeding and lost control of the vehicle, causing it to overturn. As the accident unfolded, the driver fled the scene. Local residents and other tourists immediately rushed to help the injured students. All six injured students were quickly taken to the Chikkamagaluru District Hospital for medical treatment. Hospital staff confirmed that the children sustained only minor injuries and were out of danger.

Officials from the Chikkamagaluru Rural Police Station visited the site to investigate. A case has been registered, and police have launched a search for the driver who fled the scene. Authorities are reviewing traffic and safety compliance to determine whether negligence was a factor.

Local residents expressed concern about the safety of using rented vehicles in hilly tourist areas and urged stricter enforcement of transport regulations for school tours. Police have assured swift action in the investigation and urged anyone with information about the driver or accident to come forward.

'Shrima Theme Park' to Be Inaugurated in Bedral on December 23

PUTTUR

Preparations are underway for the much-anticipated inauguration of the 'Shrima Theme Park' in Bedral village, with the official opening scheduled for December 23. A colourful procession was held today, drawing enthusiastic participation from local residents and dignitaries.

The event commenced early in the morning, with villagers, youth groups and members of cultural organisations joining the procession to mark the upcoming launch of the theme park. Traditional music, decorated vehicles and community groups created a festive atmosphere as the march progressed through the main thoroughfares of Puttur taluk. Local leaders addressing the crowd emphasised the importance of the new theme park as a landmark development that is expected to boost tourism and provide recreational opportunities for families across Dakshina Kannada district. They highlighted how the park — set amidst scenic surroundings in Bedral — will serve as a major attraction for children and adults alike once it opens later this week. Speaking at the event, community representatives lauded the efforts of the Bedral Gram Panchayat and local officials for ensuring timely completion of the project. They also called on residents to support the park's maintenance and to promote it as a destination that can contribute to the economic growth of the region. District and taluk level administrators who participated in the celebrations reiterated the administration's commitment to enhancing public amenities and recreational infrastructure in rural areas. They assured that all facilities will be fully operational by the grand opening day, with strict adherence to safety and cleanliness standards. The 'Shrima Theme Park' inauguration on December 23 is expected to attract guests from across the Mangaluru region and beyond, marking a significant milestone in the area's community development initiatives.

Police Raid Illegal Cockfight in Bantwal; Case Booked Against MLA and 16 Others

BANTWAL

Vitla police have registered a case after raiding an illegal cockfighting venue at Kepu village in Bantwal taluk on Saturday afternoon. The action followed a tip-off that preparations were underway for an unlawful cockfight in a paddy field owned by Muraleedhar Rai.

According to the police, the raid was conducted by the Vitla Police Inspector along with station staff. On reaching the spot, officers found several people gathered with roosters allegedly meant for cockfighting. The police initially informed those present about the illegality of cockfighting and the relevant legal provisions.

However, police alleged that the MLA from the Puttur Assembly constituency, who was present at the site, instigated and abetted the continuation of the illegal cockfight despite being informed that the activity was unlawful. Following this alleged provocation, the gathered persons reportedly proceeded to begin the cockfighting.

Anticipating a law-and-order situation, the police arranged adequate security and took 16 persons into custody for participating in the illegal activity. A total of 22 roosters and sharp weapons used for cockfighting were seized from the spot.

Police said the landowner, Muraleedhar Rai, had allowed the illegal activity to take place on his property without obtaining any permission. Based on this, and on allegations of instigation and abetment, a case has been registered at the Vitla Police Station.

The FIR has been filed under Crime No. 190/2025, invoking Sections 189(2), 49, 221, 223 and 190 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, along with Sections 3 and 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. The case names the Puttur MLA and the 16 individuals involved in the cockfighting.

Further investigation is underway, police said, adding that strict action will be taken against those found guilty of organising or encouraging illegal cockfighting, which is banned under law due to concerns over animal cruelty and public order.

Puttur Club Donates 15 Fans to Puttur Mahalingeshwara Temple

PUTTUR, DAKSHINA KANNADA

In a gesture of community support, The Puttur Club has donated 15 electric fans to the Mahalingeshwara Temple in Puttur town, enhancing comfort for devotees and visitors during temple hours. The presentation event was held recently in the temple premises, drawing local residents and club members. Club representatives handed over the fans to temple officials in the presence of devotees and well-wishers. Speaking on the occasion, club leaders said the contribution is part of their ongoing efforts to support public places of worship and community well-being. They noted that the fans will improve the experience for devotees attending daily rituals and special functions, especially during warmer weather.

Temple authorities expressed gratitude to The Puttur Club for the donation, acknowledging the timely support ahead of upcoming festive events. They highlighted that the additional fans would help manage large gatherings, ensuring better comfort and ventilation within temple halls. Local residents who attended the event welcomed the club's initiative and encouraged other civic organisations to undertake similar service activities that benefit the public. Many noted that such community contributions strengthen the bond between social groups and religious institutions at the grassroots level. The donation ceremony also provided an opportunity for community members to interact with club officials and share suggestions for future collaborative projects aimed at promoting social welfare in the region. This act of service by The Puttur Club reflects a growing trend of local organisations actively contributing to public amenities and supporting cultural heritage sites in Dakshina Kannada district.

Charges Framed Against 11 Naxal Accused in Udupi Over Past Six Months

UDUPI

In a significant move towards clearing long-pending naxal-related cases, courts in Udupi district have framed charges against 11 alleged naxals over the last six months, enabling trials to proceed in nearly all such cases, district police said.

Official figures show that 68 naxal-related cases have been registered in the district to date. Of these, 39 cases are currently under trial, while 28 cases have already been disposed of. One case has been split into a separate charge case with additional documents yet to be submitted against three accused, and another remains under investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Police said all the accused produced before the jurisdictional courts in the past six months have had charges formally framed against them, marking a shift from prolonged investigation stages to active trial proceedings.

Among the prominent accused is A S Suresh alias Mahesh (50) of Mudigere taluk, Chikkamagalur district, who is facing trial in 23 cases and is presently lodged in Kannur Central Prison in Kerala. Latha alias Mundagaru Latha (45) from Sringeri, currently in Bengaluru Central Prison, has charges framed in 12 cases, while Kanyakumari alias Suvarna from Kalasa is facing trial in 10 cases.

B G Krishnamurthy alias Vijay (46) from Sringeri, lodged in Viyyur High Security Prison in Kerala, is facing trial in seven cases, and M Vanajakshi alias Jyothi alias Kalpana (58) from Kalasa is facing trial in six cases. Mahesh alias Madhava (49) from Raichur district is facing charges in eight cases.

Two accused — Nilaguli Padmanabha from Koppa and Tombattu Lakshmi from Kundapur — who are currently out on bail, are facing trial in two and three cases, respectively. Other accused, including Sundari alias Geetha and Prabha alias Hosagadde Prabha, are facing trials in multiple cases.

Udupi Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar said police had prioritised the investigation of naxal-related cases to avoid procedural delays. "Earlier, these cases used to remain pending for years due to slow investigations. We have now expedited charge-sheet filing, which has ensured that trials are underway in almost all cases," he said.

Yakshagana Kalaranga Hands Over 82nd House to Student Beneficiary in Parnakila

UDUPI

Continuing its long-standing social commitment, Yakshagana Kalaranga on Saturday handed over its 82nd house to a deserving beneficiary at Varvadi in Parnakila. The newly constructed house, named 'Hariguru Krupa', was presented to Varshitha, a first PUC student and Yakshagana Kalaranga Vidyaposhak beneficiary, daughter of Manjula and Keshava.

The house was built at a cost of ₹6.50 lakh by Harish Rayas, proprietor of Bengaluru-based Texel Marketing Corporation, to mark his 60th birthday. He inaugurated the house by lighting the traditional lamp.

Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rayas said Yakshagana Kalaranga's social commitment and gratitude-driven approach were exemplary. "Not a single rupee donated to the institution is wasted. Every contribution is used meaningfully for social good," he said.

Presiding over the programme, Kapu MLA Gurme Suresh Shetty lauded the institution's wide-ranging work, including promotion of Yakshagana art, support to artistes, educational assistance to meritorious but poor students, Yakshagana training for schoolchildren, and construction of houses for the homeless. "The magnitude of Kalaranga's work is truly astonishing. No matter how busy I am, attending Kalaranga programmes gives me peace of mind," he remarked.

Several dignitaries attended the event, including Warija Ramesh, Roopa Harish, Shailaja Srikanth, Guruprakash Rayas, Sarita G. Rayas, Sanath Kumar, and Archana Harish. Local representatives such as Panchayat president Sandeep Madivala, members Sadananda Prabhu, retired principal Srinivas Prabhu, headmaster Manjunath Bhat, social worker Shreesha Nayak, and Vishnumurthy Acharya couple were also present.

Yakshagana Kalaranga office-bearers, including vice-presidents S.V. Bhat and V.G. Shetty, treasurer K. Sadashiva Rao, and members U. Vishwanath Shenai, U.S. Rajagopal Acharya, Bhuvana Prasad Hegde, Vijayakumar Mudradi and Nagaraj Hegde, participated.

Rajasthan Man Arrested for Running Fake Kollur Mookambika Temple Website, Duping Devotees

UDUPI

Kollur Police have arrested a 21-year-old man from Rajasthan for allegedly creating a fake website in the name of the Sri Mookambika Temple to cheat devotees seeking accommodation and other services. The arrest follows a complaint from the temple's Executive Officer and a police investigation that uncovered the fraudulent scheme. According to police, the accused — Nasir Hussain, a resident of Tijara in Alwar district — designed a counterfeit website that mimicked the official temple accommodation portal. The fake platform purported to offer advance room bookings at the Lalithambika Guest House near the temple. Devotees were persuaded to make payments through PhonePe QR codes shared on WhatsApp. After receiving money, the perpetrators issued fraudulent receipts, but no legitimate bookings were made. The scam came to light when worshippers who attempted to use the online service realised that their reservations were invalid. The Executive Officer of Sri Mookambika Temple filed a formal complaint with Kollur Police, prompting a case to be registered on November 3 under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Information Technology Act. A special investigation team comprising officials from the Kundapur subdivision police, along with personnel from Kollur and Gangolli police stations, traced the fraudulent activity to the suspect's laptop, which was seized as evidence during the arrest. The accused was produced before the Byndoor court on December 20 and remanded to judicial custody. Temple authorities have repeatedly urged devotees to use only the official accommodation site to avoid falling victim to online fraud. They also advised travellers to remain vigilant when making bookings related to temple visits, especially through third-party platforms or links shared via messaging apps.

PREGNANT WOMAN KILLED IN ALLEGED HONOUR CRIME

A pregnant woman was brutally killed in Hubballi taluk over her inter-caste marriage, triggering outrage and police action

Continued from page 1

In a shocking case of alleged honour killing, a Lingayat man in Hubballi taluk has been accused of beating his 20-year-old pregnant daughter to death for marrying a man from a Scheduled Caste community. The brutal assault also left her husband's parents seriously injured. The incident has sent shockwaves across the region and renewed concerns over caste-based violence and inter-caste marriages.

The victim, identified as Manya Patil, succumbed to severe head injuries at a private hospital on Sunday, December 22. Her unborn child also did not survive. The attack occurred at Inam Veerapura village, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Hubballi Rural Police Station.

According to Gunjan Arya, Manya's father, Prakashgouda Patil, along with his relatives, allegedly assaulted her at her husband's residence using lethal weapons, including an axe and an iron sprinkler pipe. The violent attack took place around 6.30 pm, and despite being rushed for medical treatment, Manya died approximately three hours later.

Her father-in-law and mother-in-law were also attacked during the incident and sustained injuries. They are currently undergoing treatment at a hospital. Police officials stated that the assailants allegedly first attacked Manya's husband Vivekananda and his father while they were working in a field, before forcibly entering the house and continuing the assault.

Manya had married Vivekananda, a man from the Madar caste belonging to the same village, earlier this year. The couple reportedly met while studying in college and had registered their marriage in Hubballi. From the beginning, the marriage faced stiff opposition from Manya's family. Following the wedding, police had intervened due to concerns about the couple's safety and had summoned both families, issuing strict warnings against harassment or violence.

Swamiji's batchmates arrange prasada for hostel students

KOPPAL

In a gesture of service and social commitment, the batchmates of Sri Gavisiddeshwara Mahaswamiji, who pursued their degree studies during the 1997–98 academic year, organised a prasada arrangement for hostel students and a special meal for senior citizens in Koppal. The initiative reflected the group's continued dedication to community welfare and compassion.

The programme was organised at the Sri Gavisiddeshwara College and the Sri Gavisiddeshwara Hostel, where students were served a wholesome prasada meal. In addition, the alumni group extended their service to the residents of the Surabhi Old Age Home by arranging food and spending quality time with the elderly.

Members of the 1997–98 degree batch, who are close associates of Sri Gavisiddeshwara Mahaswamiji of Gavimath, have taken a collective resolve to organise a one-day prasada arrangement for hostel students every year in December. This tradition has been followed consistently for the past two years and continues to gain appreciation for its sincerity and impact.

Alumni of Gavimath Swamiji organised prasada for hostel students and meals for elderly residents

On the day of the programme, alumni members arrived in Koppal from various places and first visited the Surabhi Old Age Home. They interacted warmly with the senior citizens, engaging them in conversations, sharing experiences, and bringing smiles to their faces. The elderly residents were then served a well-prepared and nutritious meal, which was received with gratitude and joy.

Later, at the Sri Gavisiddeshwara Hostel, prasada was served to all hostel students. The menu included wheat huggi, pulao, rice, sambar, and brinjal curry, prepared and served with devotion. Students expressed happiness and thanked the alumni for remembering them and supporting their welfare.

Speaking informally, members of the alumni group said that such service activities help them stay connected to their roots and instil values of compassion and responsibility.

Registration for tur dal procurement to begin from Dec 24

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The district administration has announced that registration for the procurement of tur dal under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme will commence from December 24 across Chikkaballapur district. District Collector P. N. Ravindra has appealed to farmers cultivating tur dal to make use of the opportunity by registering promptly and in large numbers. Presiding over a meeting of the District Task Force Committee on tur dal procurement under the MSP scheme at the District Collector's office on Monday, Ravindra outlined the roadmap for registration and procurement.

National Consumer Day to be observed on December 24

CHITRADURGA

The National Consumer Day–2025 will be observed on December 24 (Wednesday) in Chitradurga with an awareness programme jointly organised by various government departments and legal bodies. The event aims to promote consumer rights, responsibilities, and awareness among the public.

According to an official release issued on December 22, the programme has been organised by the district administration and Zilla Panchayat in association with the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Legal Metrology Department, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Food Safety and Drug Administration, District Scheduled Castes Welfare Department, District Advocates Association, and Chitradurga District LPG Distributors.

The event will be held at Valmiki Bhavan, located near Madakarinayaka Circle in the city. The programme will be inaugurated by V. Somashekhar, First Additional District and Sessions Judge. The programme will be presided over by T. Venkatesh, Deputy Commissioner of Chitradurga district.

Key dignitaries attending the programme as chief guests include M. Murthy, Additional Advocate General, H. N. Meena, President of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, and B. H. Yashodha, Member of the Commission.The President of the District Advocates Association, H. S. Maheshwarappa, will deliver a special lecture.

18-year-old girl missing, police ask help

CHITRADURGA

The police have appealed to the public for assistance in tracing an 18-year-old girl who has gone missing from Holalkere taluk in Chitradurga district. According to an official release dated December 22, Lakshmi Suresh Naik, a resident of Nandihalli village, has been missing since December 15.

A case regarding her disappearance was registered on December 16 at the Chikkajajur Police Station. Police said Lakshmi had been pursuing her studies at a college in Davangere and had appeared for the second PUC examination, in which she was unsuccessful.

On December 15, Lakshmi reportedly left home stating that she was going to college to pay her examination fee. However, she did not return home thereafter, raising concern among her family members. After waiting and making inquiries without success, the family approached the police, following which a missing person case was registered and an investigation was initiated.

Police have issued a description of the missing girl to aid in identification. Lakshmi is about 4.8 feet tall, has an average build, a broad face, and wheatish complexion. She speaks Kannada and Lambani languages. Officials have urged people to carefully note these details and report any information that could help trace her whereabouts. The missing girl belongs to Nandihalli in Holalkere. Police teams are conducting searches and making inquiries in nearby areas and transit points as part of the investigation.

The police have requested anyone who has seen Lakshmi or has any relevant information to immediately contact the authorities. Information can be shared with the Chikkajajur Police Inspector on mobile number 9480803150 or with the Holalkere Circle Police Inspector on mobile number 9480803135.

Police officials have assured that any information provided by the public will be kept confidential. They stressed that timely inputs from citizens can play a crucial role in tracing missing persons and reuniting them with their families.

Applications invited for financial assistance

GADAG

The Gadag district administration has invited applications for financial assistance to persons with disabilities under the 5 per cent reservation scheme for the years 2021–22 and 2024–25. The assistance will be provided under funds allocated by the State Finance Commission (SFC) and the Gadag-Betageri City Municipal Council. According to the official notification issued on December 22, applications are being accepted for two specific categories. Under the 2021–22 5 per cent scheme, eligible students with disabilities can apply for educational assistance to support their academic needs. Meanwhile, under the 2024–25 5 per cent scheme, applications have been invited to extend financial support to sportspersons with disabilities.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ABDUL AZEEZ S/o Shri MOHAMMED T, R/o Eidga Mohalla, Subhash Nagara, Kadur, Chickmagalur, Karnataka - 577548, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MOKSHITH KADUR.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, ABDUL AZEEZ son of Shri MOHAMMED T, residing at Eidga Mohalla, Subhash Nagara, Kadur, Chickmagalur, Karnataka - 577548, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced HINDUISM and renounced ISLAM with effect from 26/09/2025.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJULA W/o PRABHUDEVA, R/o Channapura, Baggavalli, Chikkamagaluru, Tarikere, Karnataka-577547, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANJAMMA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KASTURIBAI KONNUR alias NIRMALABAYI alias KASTURIBAI ANCHVARADACHARYA BIDARI W/o JAGANMOHAN KONNUR, R/o H No 2-911/28/7, Shahabad Road, Near Hanumaan Temple, Vande Matarambadavane, Gulbarga, Karnataka-585105, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KASTURIBAI BIDARI.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೈನ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್
(ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ಇಂದಿರಾ ಪ್ರಿಯದರ್ಶಿನಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯದ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080 – 22341237
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : md@karnatakawineboard.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ವೈನಿ/ಕ.ದ್ರಾ.ವೈ.ಬೋ./45/2025–26 ದಿ: 18–12–2025

ಇ– ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26ನೇ ಹಾಗೂ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೈನ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಟೆಂಡರುದಾರರು ದಿನಾಂಕ 25–12–2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೈನ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್, ಇಂದಿರಾಪ್ರಿಯದರ್ಶಿನಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯದ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–22341237, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4604/ಆಕಾರ್/2025–26

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayath Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560070.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-01/30/2025-26 Date: 20.12.2025
Corrigendum Date: 22-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No:30/2025-26
(Single Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited through K.P.P Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D Bangalore Urban for 2515 Grants Works. The work details can obtained from the KPP Website. The Tender documents can be obtained and submitted on or before: 29/12/2025 upto 4.00 P.M. Further details can be obtained from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/4611/SPAN/2025-26

REVENUE COMMISSIONERATE, REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL
1st floor SSLR Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
E-mail: bhoomi.bmc01@gmail.com Phone: 080-22113255

No: BMC/2025-26/IND0024 Date: 22/12/2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for procurement of **298 Printers** to Revenue Offices of Karnataka. The last date for uploading filled tender forms in K.P.P Portal is **07-01-2026 by 5.29 P.M.**

Details regarding terms and conditions are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Assistant Commissioner,
Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department.

DIPR/CP/4619/SPAN/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Office of the Executive Engineer
M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO : 26/2025-26 , Dated: 18-12-2025

On behalf of the Governer of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore invites tenders from registered and eligible contractors under "Kppp" Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender documents of KW1 and KW2 for 65 works, minimum tender amount Rs5.00 lakhs, maxmium tender amount Rs 50.00 Lakhs and EMD amount minimum Rs0.062 lakhs and maximum amount Rs1.25 lakhs. The other tender details are given below. Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office during office hours up to: Date: 26.12.2025 – 12.30 PM. Last date to upload the tenders with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Date: 26.12.2025 – 5.30 PM. The bids will be opened Date: 29.12.2025 – 11-00 AM

Note: All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all bids or any individual bids of this tender notification without assigning any reasons by the under signed. The terms and conditions for each work is published in the "Kppp" Tender Portal. Any corrigendum pertains to above tender will be published in KPP Portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Mysore.
DIPR/DDMYS/1401/KSMCA/797/2025-26

Office of The City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
No.: CCC.ADM-II.43/2025/Cleaning Staff/2025-26 Date: 20.12.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

The City Civil Court, Bengaluru invites e-bidding proposals (quotations) through the e-procurement website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/Auctions/live) from eligible institutions/agencies/business operators/manpower service providers (having branch office in Bengaluru city only) for providing the following service contract. Tender No.: ADM-II.43/2025/Part Time Menials Dated: 20.12.2025. Tender No. (as issued by KPPP): HCK/2025-26/SE0097 Call2 Dated: 20.12.2025. Tender Name / Services sought for: **Procurement of Cleaning Persons for cleaning purposes through outsource on service contract basis for the premises measuring a total area of 1,34,631.21 Sq.m, to perform all cleaning services as mentioned in the tender.** Tender Contract Period: **3 years, renewable each year, subject to satisfactory quality/performance or until order of discontinuation of the said services.** Estimated Approx. Total Tender Amount: **No estimation drawn, as no reference to calculate the said services is found. Rs. 50,00,000/- is taken as nominal estimated tender cost for KPPP website requirement only.** EMD Amount: **Rs. 50,000/- (Nominal EMD with no link to tender estimation cost). PBG will be based on the tender-awarded value.** Last date for clarification: **26.12.2025 at 2.00 PM.** Last date and time for submission of tender proposal: **27.12.2025 at 5.00 PM.** Date and time of opening of tender: **Technical Bid: 29.12.2025 at 10.01 AM** (Financial Bid - upon approval of Technical Bid). Pre-bid meeting date: **26.12.2025 at 1.30 PM (at the above office).** For further details: Tel: 080-22939220 / **Email: cccadm2@gmail.com**

Sd/- Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
DIPR/DD-C.P/4601/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2025-26/5538 DATE:20/12/2025

E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Tenders from Registration in KPWD Department authorized by Karnataka Government for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 2 work under head of account 5054-03-337-0-17-154 -State Highway Improvements amount put to tender is Rs. 161.34 Lakhs and Rs. 145.23 Lakhs respectively.

Calendar of events:1)Pre Bid Meeting Date: 01-01-2026 AT 11.00 PM, 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 03-01-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 06-01-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 08-01-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1522/KSMCA/2025-26

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ
ಸಂತೆ ಬೀದಿ ವೃತ್ತ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ ಅಂಚೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560090
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–28395098, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ka.chikkabanavara.tmc@gmail.com
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.chikkabanavaratown.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಪು.ಕಾ.ಚಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/10/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.12.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಇಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
01	DMA/2025-26/IND5403	106000.00
02	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT49141/ CALL-2 (Reserved)	25000.00
03	DMA/2025-26/SE6923	180313.00
04	DMA/2025-26/SE6917	48157.00
05	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT52586	20882.00
06	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52987	20229.00
07	DMA/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT52975	36330.00
08	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52971	21051.00
09	DMA/2025-26/SE6943	59840.00
10	DMA/2025-26/SE6944	59840.00

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:05.01.2026** ರಂದು (3) ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.12.2025**. (4) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವಾರ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/4605/ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ/2025–26

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QUICK READ

Nepali girl receives life-saving heart transplant

Thiruvananthapuram
A 23-year-old Nepali woman, Durga Kami, received a new heart in Kerala, bringing hope after months of waiting. Suffering from Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, a genetic heart condition, Kami lost her mother and sister to the same illness. The heart came from 47-year-old R Shibu of Kollam, declared brain dead after an accident. The transplant at Kochi's government hospital is the first district-level heart surgery in India. Shibu's other organs helped six patients. Kerala High Court granted Kami priority for the organ.

Delhi Police bust fake medicine packaging unit

New Delhi
Delhi Police on Monday busted a printing unit supplying wrappers for fake medicines and cosmetics, arresting two men. The action is part of an ongoing probe into spurious drug manufacturing. The accused, Anil Singh Rawat, who ran the Rama Road printing press, and Rahul Agarwal, who ordered the wrappers, allegedly helped Shree Ram produce and sell counterfeit medicines. Earlier, three others were arrested in the case. Police recovered dye frames used to print packaging for the fake products.

Def Min facilitates DRDO-RRU MoU for defence research, training

Under the MoU, both organisations will jointly conduct research, training, and technology studies to strengthen India's defence and internal security

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday facilitated an MoU between DRDO and Rashtriya Raksha University for research, training, and technology support in defence and internal security. The agreement was signed by DRDO's Distinguished Scientist Chandrika Kaushik and RRU Vice Chancellor Bimal N Patel at South Block, with DRDO Chairman Samir V Kamat also present.

The MoU aims to boost India's self-reliance in defence and internal security technologies, supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision. It reflects a commitment to integrate technology, knowledge, and operational insight to strengthen national security and strategic autonomy.

Rashtriya Raksha University, an institution of national importance under the Ministry of Home Affairs, offers academic, training, and policy expertise in internal security. DRDO contributes indigenous technologies and system-level expertise to meet Armed Forces and security agency requirements.

Under the agreement, both organisations will collaborate on joint research projects, PhD and fellowship programmes, and specialised training for security forces. The partnership will also cover emerging operational challenges, technology gap analysis, forecasting future requirements, and life-cycle management of DRDO-developed systems used by Central Armed Police Forces and other agencies under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

This collaboration is seen as a step forward in combining academic research and practical defence technology, aiming to ensure that India stays at the forefront of innovation and preparedness in both defence and internal security sectors.

ISRO Chairman prays at Tirumala ahead BlueBird launch

TIRUPATI

ISRO chairman V. Narayanan visited the Tirupati temple on Monday to offer prayers ahead of the upcoming BlueBird Block-2 mission scheduled for December 24. The mission will use the LVM3-M6 launch vehicle to deploy the BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite, a project of the US-based AST SpaceMobile.

Narayanan was accompanied by ISRO officials and carried a miniature replica of the launch rocket while performing the rituals, he said the mission will lift the heaviest satellite ever launched from Indian soil. "On 24 December, we are targeting the launch of BlueBird-2 using our Bahubali M6 rocket," he stated.

The BlueBird Block-2 satellite is designed to support 4G and 5G communication services. ISRO officials said the mission marks a major milestone in India's commercial space efforts, demonstrating the country's capability to launch heavy satellites and expand global communication infrastructure.

Preparations for the mission have been ongoing for several months, including rigorous testing of the LVM3-M6 rocket and satellite systems. The launch is expected to strengthen India's position in international space services and commercial satellite deployment.

Kerala Court probes alleged fake voter enrolment

THRISSUR

A Thrissur Judicial First Class Magistrate Court on Monday issued notice to a Booth-Level Officer (BLO) in connection with allegations of illegal voter enrolment involving Union Minister Suresh Gopi. The action follows a complaint by senior Congress leader and former MP T.N. Prathapan, who alleged criminal conspiracy in adding votes during the last Lok Sabha elections.

The complaint claims that Suresh Gopi, his brother Subhash Gopi, and other family members were enrolled as voters at Mukkatukara polling booth despite not meeting eligibility requirements. It alleges that fabricated documents were used in collusion with the BLO, undermining the integrity of the electoral process.

The court, after finding prima facie grounds, directed the concerned BLO to appear in person on January 20 to respond to the allegations. While examining the plea, the court noted that Suresh Gopi was not a public servant at the time of the alleged offence, so statutory notices applicable to public servants were unnecessary.

The case highlights growing scrutiny of electoral rolls in Kerala, especially during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision exercises. Observers note that this judicial intervention reflects efforts to ensure transparency and accountability in voter enrolment procedures.

The court's notice focuses on verifying the role of the BLO in processing voter enrolments and addressing claims of irregularities. Authorities and political observers are closely watching the case, as it comes amid heightened attention to voter data integrity and procedural compliance across the state.

This development underscores the legal mechanisms in place to investigate potential electoral irregularities and reinforces the importance of maintaining credible voter lists in democratic processes.

Nitish Kumar meets PM, discuss Bihar development

NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday at his official residence in New Delhi, along with Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary and Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan Singh). The meeting focused on Bihar's development agenda, coordination with the Centre, and key political issues.

Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary highlighted on social media that the meeting provided valuable guidance for Bihar's growth and aligned with PM Modi's vision of national progress. Sources said discussions covered ongoing and upcoming development projects, including education, healthcare, rural development, and employment generation.

Nitish Kumar reportedly presented his vision for transforming Bihar into a developed state, seeking support from the Union government for recently launched and proposed schemes. The interaction is seen as vital for strengthening Centre-state cooperation and paving the way for new initiatives.

The meeting also carried political significance as it marked Nitish Kumar's first interaction with the Central leadership after NDA's decisive win in the Bihar Assembly elections. Leaders deliberated on the current political situation, administrative coordination, and upcoming policy initiatives for the state.

Earlier in the day, Nitish Kumar also met Union Home Minister Amit Shah for nearly an hour to discuss administrative and political matters. Officials said these meetings underscore the importance of Centre-state collaboration for governance and development.

Stalin mocks AIADMK over electoral roll deletion

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on December 21 criticised the AIADMK and the BJP, alleging attempts to suppress votes in the state through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Addressing a Christmas event in Chennai, he claimed the SIR was a "shortcut" by the BJP to remove votes of minorities, women, and marginalised groups that usually support the DMK.

Udhayanidhi mocked the main opposition party, saying, "AIADMK has become Amit Shah Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam," pointing out its alignment with the BJP under leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami. He added that while the BJP promises protection for minorities, the opposition party should focus on safeguarding itself from central influence.

Highlighting the impact of the SIR exercise, Udhayanidhi stated that approximately 97 lakh voters have been removed from Tamil Nadu's rolls, including about 14 lakh in Chennai. He urged citizens to check their names on the electoral list and said DMK representatives would assist people in submitting forms to restore their voter details, with a deadline of January 18.

He also reiterated concerns over the New Education Policy, alleging that the BJP-led Centre aims to impose Hindi in Tamil Nadu, despite financial incentives offered to the state.

Police likely to close drug case against Shine Tom

KOCHI

Police are expected to drop a drug case against Malayalam actor Shine Tom Chacko, after a chemical analysis found no traces of narcotics in his blood or hair samples, officials said on Monday.

The case dates back to April, when the District Anti-Narcotic Special Action Force (DANSAF) raided a hotel in Kochi following a tip-off. Chacko allegedly fled the hotel upon seeing police. Ahmmed Murshad of Malappuram, who was reportedly with him, was detained, and a case was registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

A few days later, Chacko voluntarily appeared before the police and provided blood and hair samples for testing. According to an officer from Ernakulam North police station, "No traces of drugs or narcotic substances were found in the samples. Hence, it would be difficult to proceed further with the investigation."

The case had also invoked Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Section 238 (causing disappearance of evidence) and NDPS Act Sections 27(b) and 29, covering drug consumption and criminal conspiracy. However, police said the absence of scientific evidence makes it hard to substantiate these charges.

SURYODAY SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
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Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Whereas the undersigned is the Authorized officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd. ("SSFBL") under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) to discharge in full their liability to the Company by making payment of entire outstanding including up to date interest, cost and charges within 60 days from the date of respective Notices issued and the publication of the Notice as given below as and way of alternate service upon you. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset (s) have been mortgaged to SSFBL by the said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) respectively.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 237000001150 1) MR. KRISHNAMURTHY S S/O SHIVAJIPPA 2) GEETA P K W/O KRISHNAMURHTY P S PAVAN KUMAR P K S/O KRISHNAMURTHY	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 3,38,347/- as on 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF BEARING PROPERTY PLOT NO.673, SY NO:910/A, ASSESMENT NO I/SY NO: 910/APLT NO 673, WRD NO 4, FORM NO: 3, UNIQUE NO: 4-5-552-543, MEASURING EAST TO WEST=6.09 mtr, NORTH TO SOUTH=9.144 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=55.74 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT RANEBENNUR TOWN, RANEBENNUR TOWN PANCYATH, RANEBENNUR TALLUK, RANEBENNUR DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: SITE NO 674, WEST BY: SITE NO.672, NORTH BY: SITE NO.668 SOUTH BY: ROAD		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 249000128158 1) MR. KUMAR S/O MADASETTY 2) MRS. BHAVANI W/O KRISHNA SETTY	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,40,651/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO.100/2, E-SWATHU, UNIQUE NO.150800203600300177 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=8.077 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH= 7.315 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=59.09 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT HIREBEGURU VILLAGE, KULAGANA GRAMAPANCHAYATH CHAMARAJANAGARA TALLUK, CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT KARNATAKA.BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: STREET, WEST BY: HOUSE OF CHANNASHETTY, NORTH BY: HOUSE OF SAMPASETTY SOUTH BY: HOUSE OF CHIKKASIDDASETTY		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 249000116452 1) MRS. LAKSHMAMMA W/O RACHAIAH 2) MR. KUMARA S/O RACHAIAH	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs.4,37,297/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY ALL THE PEACE AND PARCEL OFRESIDENTIAL HOUSE BEARING PROPERTY NO.16/Ni/24, FORM NO.9, UNIQUE NO.150800300300120344 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=9.144 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=12.192 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=111.48 BUILD UP AREA 51.10 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT KUNAGALLI VILLAGE, KUNAGALLI GRAMAPANCHAYATH KOLLEGALA TALLUK, CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: SITE NO.23 WEST BY: ROAD NORTH BY: SITE NO.37 SOUTH BY: ROAD		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	29-10-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO.227000002803 1) MR. NAGENDRA S/O SRINIVASAMURTHY 2) MRS. SUNDRI W/O NAGENDRA	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs.5,47,257/- AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO.708/678, WARD NO.19, NAMUNE-3, E-AASTHI PID NO.19- 2-506-87B, MEASURING EAST TO WEST=3.962408 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=6.705613 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=26.570258 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT NO.87B#T, 1ST CROSS, BLOCK-2, WARD NO.19, CHAMARAJANAGARA TOWN KARNATAKA BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: ROAD WEST BY: 19-2-506-87B NORTH BY: 19-2-506-87 SOUTH BY: 19-2-506-89B		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 239000003125 1) MR.RAMACHANDRA B.P. S/O PUTTA ARASAIAH 2) MRS. SIDDAGANGAMMA W/O B.P.RAMACHANDRAMMA	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs.4,46,797/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO.109, FORM-NO.9, UNIQUE NO.152500300201200109 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=5.4864 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=10.9728 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=60.20 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT NEGILALA VILLAGE, BUYDAGAVI GRAMAPANCHAYATH KORATAGERE HOBLI, TUMAKURU DISTRICT KARNATAKA BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: VACANT PROPERTY BOMMANNA WEST BY: SITE BY N.C.SHIVANANDAIAH NORTH BY: ROAD SOUTH BY: ROAD		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000066211 1) MR.NAGENDRA S/O MAHADEVANAYAKA 2) MRS. MAHADEVAMMA W/O MAHADEVANAYAKA	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs.503981/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO.511, 11A KHATA, UNIQUE NO.150800100600400500 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=9.144 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=12.192 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=111.48 SQ.MTRS, SITUATED AT BADANAGUPPE GRAMAPANCHAYATH, CHAMARAJANAGARA TALLUK, CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT KARNATAKA BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: PROPERTY BELONGS TO JAVARANAYAKA WEST BY: PROPERTY KOTHIMADANAYAKA NORTH BY: PROPERTY BELONGS TO KENCHANAYAKA SOUTH BY: ROAD		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000022341 1) MRS. NAGENDRA S S/O SIDDARAJU A 2) MRS.CHANDRAMMA W/O SIDDARAJU. 3) MRS. SIDDARAJU S/O SIDDAIAH	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 3,78,232/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO.248, FORM NO.11B, UNIQUE NO.152100405300400250 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=6.705 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=12.19 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=81.75 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT DODDAKETTAGERE VILLAGE, CHANDAGALU(B) GRAMAPANCHAYATH MANDYA TALLUK, MANDYA DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: OPEN SPACE AND ROAD WEST BY: ROAD NORTH BY: OPEN SPACE SOUTH BY: OPEN SPACE AND ANGANWADI KENDRA		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	29-10-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 249000071108 1) MRS. SUNDRAMMA W/O RAMAIAH 2) MRS.RAMAIAH S/O LATE KARIAIAH	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 2,92,403/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTYBEARING OLD PROPERTY NO.196/1, UNIQUE NO.152200606156000778, MEASURING EAST TO WEST=12.19 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=9.14 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=111.41 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT RAVANUDURU VILLAGE, PERIRYPATTANA TALLUKU, MYSURU DISTRICT. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: SMALL OF VASU WEST BY: ROAD NORTH BY: HOUSE NO-7 SOUTH BY: HOUSE OF RAMESHA		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	29-10-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000087001 1) MRS. Y.M.RADHA W/O MAHESH 2) MR. MAHESH S/O LATE PUTTASWAMY	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,33,408/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTYBEARING OLD PROPERTY NO.232, UNIQUE NO.150800102800600357, MEASURING EAST TO WEST=12.192 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=9.7536 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=118.92 SQ. MTR. SITUATED AT NAVILURU VILLAGE CHAMARAJANAGARA TALUK CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT:- 571124 BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: HOUSE OF BASAVEGOWDA WEST BY: ROAD NORTH BY: HOUSE OF MALLEGOWDA SOUTH BY: HOUSE OF NINGAMMA		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 237000001150 1) MR. BASAVARAJU N S/O NAGARAJU 2) MR. NAGARAJU S/O DEVEGOWDA. 3) SMT. RATHNAMMA W/O NAGARAJU	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,27,890/- as on 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OFBEARING PROPERTY NO.1024, FORM NO.9, UNIQUE NO.150800400500120287 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=9.75 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=4.50 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=18.58 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT YEALADURGA VILLAGE, GUMBALLI GRAMAPANCHAYATH CHAMARAJANAGARA TALLUK, CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: ROAD WEST BY: SITE FOR THIMMEGOWDA NORTH BY: SITE FOR KULLEGOWDA SOUTH BY: HOUSE BELONGS TO RAJESH		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000032737 1) MRS. PARVATHAMMA W/O GOVINDAIAH 2) MR. GOVINDAIAH S K S/O LATE SANNA KARENAIK.	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,03,598/-as on 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF BEARING PROPERTY NO.276, FORM NO.11B, UNIQUE NO.152500101000200410 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=15.544 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=19.81 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=307.97 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT SORALAMAVU VILLAGE, CHOWLAKATTE GRAMAPANCHAYATH CHIKKANAYAKANAHALLI TALLUK, TUMKUR DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: GALLI WEST BY: ROAD NORTH BY: PANCHAYATH SISTAN AND ROAD SOUTH BY: GALLI AND HOUSE OF LAKSHMAIAH		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 237000000200 1) RAVIKUMAR M.R. S/O RAMEGOWDA 2) RAMEGOWDA S/O LATE ELLEGOWDA 3) SAKAMMA W/O RAMEGOWDA	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs.5,15,650/-as on 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF BEARING JANJAR NO.200 PROPERTY NO.595/2, 11B KHATA, UNIQUE NO.152200601416500964, MEASURING EAST TO WEST=23.78 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=13.71 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=326.02 SQ.MTRS, BUILDING MEASURING=219.80 SITUATED AT MAKODU VILLAGE, MAKODU GRAMAPANCHAYATH, PERIYAPATTANA TALLUK, MYSURU DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: GOVERNAMENT ROAD WEST BY: PROPERTY BELONGS TO SANNA NORTH BY: BYARAN MANGRI DASEGOWDA SOUTH BY: PROPERTY BELONGS TO RATHNAMMA		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000131126 1) MR. K R SHIVASHANKARA S/O RAJEGOWDA 2) MRS. GOWRAMMA W/O RAJEGOWDA 3) MR. RAJEGOWDA S/O BASAVEGOWDA	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,33,414/-as on 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF BEARING PROPERTY NO.302,PROPERTY NO:313, FORM NO.11B, UNIQUE NO.151600501200200432 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=5.79 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=9.75 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=56.48 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT KAREHALLI VILLAGE, KAREHALLI GRAMAPANCHAYATH CHANNARAYAPATTANA TALLUK, HASANA DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: LAND OF MANJUNATH WEST BY: HOUSE OF SHANKAREGOWDA NORTH BY: ANATI ROAD SOUTH BY: LAND OF SHANKAREGOWDA		

If the said Borrower, Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) fails to make payment to SSFBL as aforesaid, SSFBL shall be entitled to take possession of the secured asset mentioned above and shall take such other actions as is available to the Company in law, entirely at the risks, cost and consequences of the borrowers.
The said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) are prohibited under the provision of sub section (13) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise referred to in the notice without prior consent of SSFBL.

Place: Karnataka Date: 20-12-2025 **Sd/- Authorized Officer, For Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited**

QUICK READ

Sweden releases Russian freighter after customs inspection

Stockholm

Swedish customs released the Russian freighter Adler after inspecting the vessel, which had anchored near Hoganas due to engine trouble. Authorities boarded the ship over the weekend to check compliance with regulations. Prosecutors decided not to investigate possible sanctions violations, allowing the freighter to continue its journey north along Sweden's west coast. Adler and its owners, M Leasing LLC, are on European Union and U.S. sanctions lists for suspected weapons transport, though cargo details remain undisclosed. The ship had departed St. Petersburg on December 15 for an unknown destination.

South Korea lawmaker questioned over luxury gift

Seoul

Representative Kim Gi-hyeon of South Korea's opposition People Power Party appeared before a special counsel investigating bribery allegations involving former first lady Kim Keon Hee. Kim was questioned about a Roger Vivier clutch bag worth 2.6 million won, reportedly delivered by his wife in 2023. Authorities suspect the gift was linked to support from Unification Church members for Kim's party leadership bid. The lawmaker admitted the gift but denied wrongdoing. The probe, led by special counsel Min Joong-ki, also questioned former PPP leader Lee Jun-seok about election meddling and alleged collusion involving former President Yoon and the former first lady.

PTI workers protest Khan sentencing nationwide

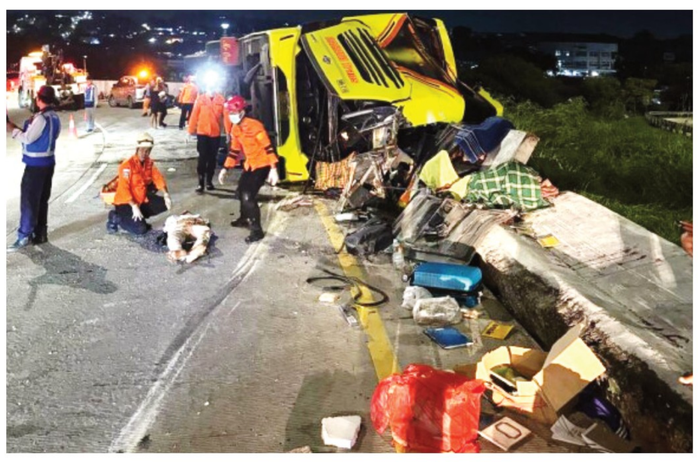
Islamabad

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters staged rallies across Pakistan after courts sentenced party founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi to 17 years in the Toshakhana-II case. Protesters waved flags, chanted slogans, and criticized the federal government and judiciary. PTI leaders called the verdict baseless and urged street protests, while Khan plans to challenge the ruling in Islamabad High Court. Over 1,300 police and security personnel, including Elite Force and anti-riot units, were deployed in Rawalpindi to maintain order.

Bus crash kills 16 on Indonesia's Java Island

A Jakarta office fire killed 22, spreading quickly; firefighters controlled it after 3 hrs with extensive personnel and engines

JAKARTA



At least 16 people were killed when a passenger bus lost control and crashed on Indonesia's main island of Java shortly after midnight on Monday, officials said. The inter-provincial bus, carrying 34 passengers, was travelling from the capital, Jakarta, to the historic city of Yogyakarta when it hit a concrete barrier and overturned.

Budiono, chief of the local search and rescue agency, said several other victims were rushed to Semarang city for medical treatment. He confirmed that authorities were investigating the cause of the accident.

Transport accidents are common in Indonesia, where many vehicles are old, poorly maintained, and traffic rules are frequently ignored. In 2024, a collision between a car and a bus on a busy highway claimed 12 lives during the Eid al-Fitr holiday. Earlier, in 2019, a bus crash in western Sumatra killed at least 35 people when the vehicle fell into a ravine.

The latest tragedy comes just two weeks after a fire tore through a seven-storey office building in Jakarta, killing at least 22 people. The blaze, which started on the building's first floor in the Kemayoran area, spread rapidly, sending black smoke into the sky and causing panic among workers and nearby residents. Firefighters, aided by hundreds of personnel and 29 fire engines, managed to extinguish the fire after three hours.

Most victims in that incident died from smoke inhalation, while firefighters rescued 19 people with minor injuries. The repeated accidents highlight persistent safety concerns in Indonesia's transport and urban infrastructure.

Russian General killed in Moscow car bomb

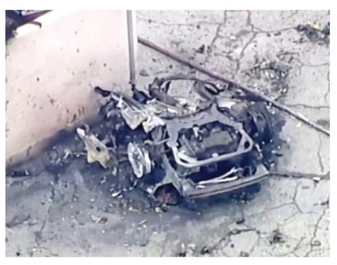
The killing occurs amid ongoing Russia-Ukraine peace talks, described as "constructive" by Kremlin and "quick" by Zelenskyy

MOSCOW

Lieutenant General Fanil Sarvarov, a senior Russian military officer, was killed on Monday when a car bomb exploded in Moscow, authorities confirmed. Sarvarov led the army's operational training directorate under the Russian General Staff and died instantly in the blast.

Russia's Investigative Committee said multiple scenarios are being considered, including the potential involvement of Ukrainian special services in planting the explosive device. Investigators have not provided further details, but the incident has sparked concerns about security for high-ranking officials in the capital.

The killing comes amid ongoing diplomatic efforts to end the nearly four-year conflict between Russia and



Ukraine. A Kremlin spokesperson said talks over a U.S.-backed proposal in Florida are progressing in a "constructive" manner, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the process as moving "quickly."

Despite diplomatic progress, violence continues in Ukraine. A recent Russian missile strike on port facilities in Odesa killed eight people and injured 27, according to Ukraine's emergency services. The incident highlights the ongoing volatility in the region, even as negotiations continue.

Sarvarov's death is likely to heighten tensions and may influence Russia's military and political response. Analysts note that the targeting of senior officials represents a significant escalation, raising questions about internal security measures in Moscow.

The attack underscores the persistent risks faced by military leaders during the conflict and adds urgency to diplomatic and security discussions between the two nations. As investigations continue, global attention remains focused on the implications for Russia-Ukraine relations.

China condemns US seizure of Venezuela-bound tanker

BEIJING

China strongly criticized the United States on Monday after a U.S. Coast Guard intercepted a China-bound oil tanker off Venezuela's coast, calling the action a serious violation of international law.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Lin Jian, said Venezuela has the right to develop relations with other countries and reaffirmed China's opposition to all "unilateral and illegal" sanctions. The tanker, named Centuries, was carrying about 1.8 million barrels of Venezuelan Merey crude oil and had been loaded under the false name Crag. Documents revealed that the oil was purchased through intermediaries by Satau Tijana Oil Trading for delivery to Chinese refiners.

The interception followed U.S. President Donald Trump's recent announcement of a "blockade" targeting all sanctioned oil tankers entering or leaving Venezuela. A White House spokesperson described the vessel as "falsely flagged" and part of Venezuela's shadow fleet.

Venezuela condemned the interception, calling it a "serious act of international piracy." China is Venezuela's largest crude buyer, with imports from the country making up roughly 4% of its total oil purchases.

South Korea expands welfare for senior citizens

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Monday promised to expand welfare support for the country's senior citizens, recognising their contributions to economic growth and democracy. The announcement came during a luncheon with representatives of the Korean Senior Citizens' Association.

Lee highlighted that South Korea has officially entered a "super-aged society" this year, with over 20 per cent of the population aged 65 and above. "Policies for older adults are no longer just about seniors. They're policies for everyone," he said, stressing the government's commitment to ensuring seniors enjoy healthy and dignified lives.

He outlined plans to launch a nationwide, customised care system integrating medical, nursing, and caregiving services starting in March. Basic pension payments will also rise, and senior employment programs will be expanded to help older citizens remain active and socially engaged.

Additionally, the government intends to gradually extend National Health Insurance coverage to include caregiving costs at nursing homes. "We will strengthen the welfare safety net while helping seniors put their experience and wisdom to use as valuable social assets," Lee added.

During the meeting, Lee thanked older citizens for their dedication in transforming South Korea from a war-torn country after the 1950-53 Korean War into a modern economic powerhouse and vibrant democracy. He also noted that this year marks a "watershed" as the nation overcame a democratic crisis following former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed martial law attempt.

Lee emphasised that South Korea's achievements in politics, culture, and economy are built on seniors' sacrifices. "You walked with us through industrialisation and democratisation, and we are deeply grateful for your hard work," he said, underlining the government's pledge to provide stronger support and respect for the elderly population.

Albanese's cabinet approved a 2026 legislative package to strengthen hate speech penalties

Australian PM condemns attack, apologises to Jewish community

CANBERRA

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday apologised to the nation's Jewish community following the deadly mass shooting at Bondi Beach. The attack, which occurred on December 14 during a Hanukkah celebration in Sydney, claimed 15 lives and shocked the country.

At a press conference in Canberra, Albanese expressed his sorrow, saying, "I'm sorry for what the Jewish community and our nation as a whole have experienced." He added that the government feels the "weight of responsibility" to protect Jewish Australians and prevent terrorists from dividing society. The attack was inspired by the Islamic State.

Albanese announced that his cabinet, which met for the second time since the tragedy, has approved a legislative package to combat hate speech. The proposed laws, to be introduced in 2026, aim to strengthen penalties for hate speech, make hate motivation a factor in sentencing, and give the Home Affairs Minister the power to cancel visas for people promoting violence or displaying hate symbols.

The legislation will also introduce a new aggravated criminal offence for adults who try to radicalise children. Attorney-General Michelle Rowland highlighted the growing threat of youth radicalisation, noting that out of 33 people currently facing terrorism charges in Australia, 17 are minors. She stressed, "This unprecedented radicalisation of our youth must stop. We will not allow extremists to groom and brainwash our children into hate or terrorism."

Albanese confirmed that the government will consult across all federal parties to ensure that the laws are passed quickly and effectively. He emphasised that the new measures are intended to safeguard communities, prevent future attacks, and send a strong message that Australia will not tolerate hate or violence.

The Prime Minister's statement and the legislative push come amid heightened concern about domestic terrorism and the influence of extremist ideologies, reflecting a firm government response to a tragic event that has deeply affected the nation.

Vance supports H-1B curbs on tech firms

PHOENIX

U.S. Vice President JD Vance voiced support for tightening H-1B visa rules, criticizing companies for bypassing American workers in favor of cheaper foreign labour. Speaking at the AmericaFest convention of Turning Point USA in Phoenix, Vance argued that firms should prioritize domestic employment over hiring cheaper international talent.

"True Christian politics must include the dignity of work," Vance said. "We penalize corporations that ship American jobs overseas because every person deserves a good job here." He highlighted efforts by the administration to restrict H-1B visas without Congress, saying, "It is wrong for companies to bypass American labour just to go for cheaper options in the third world."

Earlier this year, former President Donald Trump imposed a $100,000 fee for new H-1B applications as part of a broader immigration crackdown. The H-1B program is widely used by U.S. tech companies to hire skilled foreign workers, with India being the largest source of talent.

The visa restrictions have created challenges for technology firms. Alphabet's Google and Apple recently warned some employees on U.S. work visas to avoid international travel due to embassy delays for visa stamping, which could last up to 12 months.

Japan set to restart largest nuclear plant

NIIGATA

Japan is preparing to restart the world's largest nuclear power plant, Kashiwazaki-Kariwa, nearly 15 years after the Fukushima disaster. On Monday, lawmakers in Niigata prefecture will vote on resuming operations at the plant, marking a key step in Japan's push to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Kashiwazaki-Kariwa, located about 220 km northwest of Tokyo, was one of 54 reactors shut after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami devastated the Fukushima Daiichi plant. TEPCO, which operated Fukushima, will manage the restart. If approved, the first of seven reactors could resume operations on January 20, boosting electricity supply to Tokyo by about 2%, officials said.

Despite government assurances, many locals remain wary. Around 300 protesters gathered outside the Niigata assembly, holding banners saying "No Nukes" and "Support Fukushima." Ayako Oga, a former Fukushima evacuee, voiced fears of repeating the past disaster. TEPCO pledged 100 billion yen ($641 million) to the prefecture over the next decade to secure support, yet surveys show most residents remain concerned about safety.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has backed the restart to strengthen energy security and counter high fossil fuel costs.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

3		2	6		1		5	
	4		3	2			9	1
1		7		9		3		
	5			7	6		3	
7		8	9	5		6		4
6		1		4			7	
	1			6			8	
	7		8		4		6	
8		5	7		9	1		2

7	6	8	2	5	1	9	3	4
1	4	9	7	6	3	2	5	8
3	5	2	9	4	8	6	1	7
6	3	5	4	8	9	1	7	2
8	2	1	6	7	5	3	4	9
4	9	7	3	2	1	8	6	5
5	8	3	1	9	7	4	2	6
9	1	6	5	2	4	7	8	3
2	7	4	8	3	6	5	9	1

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

NORTHERN NIGERIA RELIEF

Freed Nigerian children to reunite with families

MINNA

The final group of 130 Nigerian schoolchildren freed by authorities on Sunday are set to reunite with their families in Niger State on Monday, ending a month-long ordeal that drew global attention.

The children were among over 300 students and 12 staff abducted from St. Mary's Catholic School in Papiri, a remote hamlet seven hours from the state capital Minna, on November 21. This kidnapping was among the worst in recent years, raising concerns about worsening insecurity in northern Nigeria, where armed gangs frequently target schools for ransom.

Earlier, 100 students were released on December 8, and 50 pupils escaped shortly after the initial abduction. President Bola Tinubu's office said the children would be brought to Minna on Monday to meet relatives in time for Christmas celebrations.

Presidency spokesperson Bayo Onanuga said the latest release followed a "military-intelligence-driven operation," without revealing further details. It remains unclear whether the children were freed through a security raid, negotiations, or ransom payments. Information about the kidnapped staff was not provided.

The Catholic Diocese of Kontagora thanked federal and state authorities, security agencies, and humanitarian partners for securing the children's freedom. "We are profoundly grateful… for their efforts and interventions," said Rev. Fr. Jatau Luka Joseph.

Mass kidnappings for ransom have become a grim reality in northern and central Nigeria, where armed gangs exploit weak security and vast rural areas. The phenomenon gained international attention after Boko Haram abducted 276 girls from Chibok in 2014. U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened military action, accusing Nigeria of mistreating Christians, while the government maintains that armed groups target both Muslims and Christians.

The safe return of the students offers relief to families and highlights ongoing challenges in curbing school abductions in the region.

QUICK READ

Hyundai Unveils AI Robotics Strategy, Atlas Robot

Seoul

Hyundai Motor Group announced it will reveal its AI robotics plan and debut a humanoid robot, Atlas, at CES 2026 in Las Vegas. The keynote on Jan. 5 will showcase AI technologies, human-robot teamwork, and a company-wide robotics ecosystem. Atlas will demonstrate real-world applications of Hyundai's AI robotics. The company also shared plans for a software-driven factory to combine robots and manufacturing. Separately, Hyundai is building a 111,000-square-meter battery R&D center in Anseong, South Korea, costing 1.2 trillion won. It aims to advance electric vehicle technology and become a global leader in battery research and innovation.

Neptune Logitek IPO lists with heavy losses

Mumbai

Neptune Logitek shares made a weak debut on BSE SME, opening at Rs 100, 26% below the IPO price of Rs 126. Selling pressure pushed the stock further down to Rs 95.80, causing investors to lose nearly Rs 30,200 per 1,000-share lot. The IPO, fully subscribed 1.61 times, raised Rs 46.62 crore for trucks, equipment, debt repayment, and corporate use. The company provides logistics services including freight forwarding, customs clearance, air cargo, and multimodal transport. Its asset-heavy model relies on owned trucks, maintenance facilities, and fuel setup. Market sentiment turned negative following the disappointing listing.

India New Zealand FTA promises zero duty exports

The minister noted the FTA will drive $20 billion New Zealand investment in India, focusing on manufacturing, infrastructure, services, innovation, and jobs

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday that the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement will ensure zero duty on 100 per cent of India's exports, bringing wide benefits across multiple sectors of the economy.

Goyal said the agreement will strongly support farmers, MSMEs, workers, artisans, women-led enterprises and young entrepreneurs. Labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel, leather and footwear are expected to gain significantly, along with engineering, automobiles, electronics, machinery, pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

The minister also highlighted that the FTA will boost investment flows, with New Zealand committing to facilitate nearly 20 billion dollars of foreign direct investment into India over the next 15 years. The investment focus will be on manufacturing, infrastructure, services, innovation and job creation.

Sharing details on social media, Goyal said the agreement was concluded in a record nine months under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon. He described the deal as a major milestone in strengthening bilateral relations.

The FTA opens new market access for Indian agricultural products such as fruits, vegetables, coffee, spices, cereals and processed foods. Through partnerships in agricultural productivity, centres of excellence and access to advanced New Zealand technologies, Indian farmers are expected to benefit from better yields, improved quality and higher incomes.

At the same time, India has protected sensitive sectors. Products such as dairy, sugar, edible oils, precious metals, rubber goods and certain agricultural items have been safeguarded to protect domestic industries and farmers.

The agreement also creates fresh opportunities for India's services sector, including IT, finance, education, tourism and healthcare. Special provisions on student mobility, post-study work and temporary employment visas will help Indian professionals and students access global opportunities.

Goyal said the FTA will deepen economic ties and support India's long-term vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Electronics sector boosts jobs for indian women: Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI

The minister highlighted Foxconn's Bengaluru iPhone facility hiring nearly 30,000 employees in under nine months, 80% women, many joining the formal workforce for the first time

The electronics sector in India is creating large-scale blue-collar jobs for women, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday, highlighting a major shift in the country's manufacturing landscape.

The minister referred to recent reports on Taiwan-based Foxconn, which has hired nearly 30,000 employees at its new iPhone assembly facility in Bengaluru within just eight to nine months. Around 80 per cent of these workers are women, many of whom are entering the formal workforce for the first time.

In a post on social media platform X, Vaishnaw said a women-led mega factory would have been unthinkable a decade ago. He added that the electronics sector is now creating skilled blue-collar jobs, especially for women, while also supporting technology transfer, empowerment and better living standards.

Foxconn's new facility is located in Devanahalli near Bengaluru. Most of the women employed at the plant are between 19 and 24 years old. By next year, the workforce at the factory is expected to grow to nearly 50,000 employees, making it one of the largest employment hubs in the sector.

Trial production at the plant began earlier this year with the iPhone 16. The facility is currently assembling the latest iPhone 17 Pro Max models, with more than 80 per cent of production meant for export markets.

Foxconn is investing around Rs 20,000 crore in the Bengaluru project. Spread across nearly 250,000 square feet, the facility will become the company's largest manufacturing unit in India in terms of both production capacity and employment.

The new plant is also expected to surpass Foxconn's older iPhone factory in Tamil Nadu, which employs about 41,000 workers. In October, Foxconn announced an additional Rs 15,000 crore investment in Tamil Nadu, creating 14,000 high-value jobs.

With operations in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana, Foxconn's expansion reflects India's growing role as a global electronics manufacturing hub and highlights new employment opportunities for women across the country.

German car exports fall sharply to U.S.

BERLIN

German car exports to the United States dropped almost 14% in the first nine months of 2025, showing how trade tensions continue to hit Europe's auto industry. A new study says this makes the car sector the hardest hit by U.S. tariffs introduced during Donald Trump's administration.

Under a deal between Washington and Brussels, the U.S. set a 15% tariff on European cars from August 1. This is lower than the earlier proposed 25% tariff but still affects German exports. The study also showed that German engineering exports fell 9.5% during the same period. Machinery and chemical exports to the U.S. also declined, partly because of high tariffs on steel and aluminum and rising energy costs in Germany.

Overall, German exports to the U.S. went down 7.8% compared to last year. Between 2016 and 2024, German exports to the U.S. had been growing around 5% annually.

The report warned that CPI and GDP base-year revisions in February 2026 may prompt MPC to act cautiously

RBI may cut repo rate

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India may reduce the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5 per cent in its upcoming Monetary Policy Committee meeting in February, according to a new report by Union Bank of India.

The report said the central bank's recent dovish signals, along with repeated references to comfortable inflation levels, suggest room for one final rate cut. The bank noted that the reduction could come either in February or April 2026, though predicting the exact timing remains difficult.

Union Bank of India pointed out that inflation pressures appear subdued. When adjusted for around 50 basis points contributed by gold prices, underlying inflation looks even more moderate. This gives the RBI space to consider easing rates further to support growth.

However, the report also flagged uncertainty due to upcoming revisions in the base year for Consumer Price Index and Gross Domestic Product data, expected in February 2026. These changes may prompt the MPC to adopt a cautious approach and wait for clearer signals before making further policy moves.

The RBI cut the repo rate by 25 basis points in December, bringing it down to 5.25 per cent. The next MPC meeting is scheduled to take place from February 4 to 6, 2026, where the rate decision will be closely watched by markets.

The central bank has revised India's growth forecast for FY26 to 7.3 per cent. It expects domestic demand to improve due to income tax changes, easing monetary policy and continued GST-related reforms from the fiscal side.

Meanwhile, a separate report by Yes Bank cautioned that a new CPI series with lower weightage for food items could reduce the comfort gained from falling food prices. This may limit the scope for further rate cuts unless economic growth weakens sharply.

The RBI is expected to continue ensuring comfortable liquidity conditions while keeping the operative interest rate aligned closely with the repo rate.

Deccan Gold Mines begins Kyrgyzstan production trials

NEW DELHI

Deccan Gold Mines Ltd has started initial production trials at its gold mining project in Kyrgyzstan. The pre-commissioning phase will process around 20,000–30,000 tonnes of ore. Gold recovered during these trials will be made into saleable concentrate or dore bars, helping the company test and validate its production process. This step marks a key milestone before full-scale operations begin. The successful trials are expected to provide insights into efficiency and yield, setting the stage for progressive commissioning. The move reflects Deccan Gold Mines' commitment to expanding gold and critical mineral production internationally.

Institutional investments set new real estate records

MUMBAI

Institutional investments in Indian real estate are expected to cross 10 billion dollars in 2025, setting a fresh record for the second year in a row, according to a new JLL report. The report estimates investments of about 10.4 billion dollars through 77 transactions, a strong 17 per cent rise compared to 8.9 billion dollars recorded last year.

The study also highlighted large platform commitments worth 11.43 billion dollars in 2025. These funds are expected to be invested gradually over the next three to seven years, showing long-term confidence in the sector.

For the first time since 2014, domestic institutional investors have taken the lead, accounting for 52 per cent of the total investment market. This shift shows growing trust among Indian investors in stable, income-generating assets. Core asset purchases also doubled during the year, reflecting a clear move towards long-term wealth creation.

Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts played a major role, deploying around 2.5 billion dollars, which made up more than half of core asset investments. Indian private equity firms added further strength, contributing nearly 30 per cent of domestic capital.

Foreign investor participation declined slightly in share, but actual foreign investments rose by 18 per cent year-on-year. Investors from the Americas showed strong interest, increasing their investments sharply compared to last year.

The office segment regained its top position, attracting 58 per cent of total institutional investments in 2025. Bengaluru emerged as the leading city, drawing 29 per cent of total investments. Tier 2 cities also saw some activity, receiving 175 million dollars.

Experts said the trend confirms renewed faith in India's real estate growth story and long-term stability.

India capital market infrastructure sees strong revenue growth

NEW DELHI

India's capital market infrastructure sector recorded revenues of over Rs 700 billion in the financial year 2024–25, driven by rising market activity and growing investor participation, according to a report by global brokerage Jefferies. The sector includes stock brokers, exchanges, depositories and registry and transfer agents, all of which benefited from higher trading volumes and a broader investor base.

The report said the sector's future growth will depend on faster expansion in select segments, entry into related businesses and the ability to adapt to regulatory changes. Mutual funds are expected to play a key role in this growth story. Jefferies projects mutual fund assets under management to grow at a strong annual pace of 16 per cent between FY26 and FY28, increasing from Rs 67 trillion in FY25 to Rs 103 trillion by FY28.

Trading activity is also expected to remain healthy. Cash market average daily turnover is projected to rise by 15 per cent, while futures and options premium turnover may grow by 12 per cent. This reflects some moderation in derivatives trading after recent regulatory steps.

Investor participation is set to expand sharply. The number of demat accounts is forecast to rise from 192 million in FY25 to 304 million by FY28. Mutual fund folios are also expected to grow significantly, from 235 million to 377 million during the same period.

In FY25, brokers generated nearly Rs 500 billion in revenue, while stock exchanges contributed around Rs 200 billion. Depositories and transfer agents accounted for the remaining share.

Asian shares rise, Yen weakens as bonds falter

SYDNEY

Asian shares rose on Monday, tracking tech-driven gains on Wall Street, while the yen hovered near all-time lows against the euro and Swiss franc amid higher Japanese interest rates pressuring government debt.

Japan's Nikkei surged 1.9%, extending Friday's gains as a weaker yen boosts export earnings. The Bank of Japan raised rates to a 30-year high of 0.75%, signaling more hikes, sending 10-year JGB yields to 2.10%, their highest since 1999. The yen touched 184.90 versus the euro and 198.08 versus the Swiss franc, with authorities warning of possible intervention if declines continue.

MSCI's Asia-Pacific index (excluding Japan) added 0.8%, while South Korea jumped 1.7% on AI optimism. Chinese blue chips rose 0.8%, and Singapore's main index hit a record high, climbing 1%. European futures were relatively flat, with EUROSTOXX 50 and FTSE down 0.1%.

Investor inflows remain strong, with global equity funds seeing record weekly inflows of $98 billion last week. Bond inflows slowed for the fourth consecutive week, and U.S. 10-year yields edged up to 4.169%.

Commodities also gained: silver hit a new record of $69.44 per ounce, gold rose 1.3% to $4,394, while oil prices firmed after U.S. interception of Venezuelan tankers, with Brent at $60.96 and U.S. crude at $56.99 per barrel.

Market sentiment remains bullish, though analysts caution that extreme optimism may precede pullbacks, as suggested by recent Fund Manager Surveys.

Motilal Oswal backs Sensa Core with $72 million

MUMBAI

Motilal Oswal Alternates has invested USD 72 million (around Rs 645 crore) in Hyderabad-based medical devices company Sensa Core Medical Instrumentation for a significant minority stake. The funding aims to boost product development and support global expansion, the company said on Monday.

Founded in 2006, Sensa Core designs, develops, manufactures, and distributes specialised in-vitro diagnostic devices.

Its electrolyte analysers are used in over 40,000 hospitals and labs across India and exported to more than 78 countries. The company also produces glucometers, haemoglobin meters, and has recently entered the arterial blood gas analyser segment.

TIERONE OFFICE DEMAND

Majority of GCC bases operate from green centres

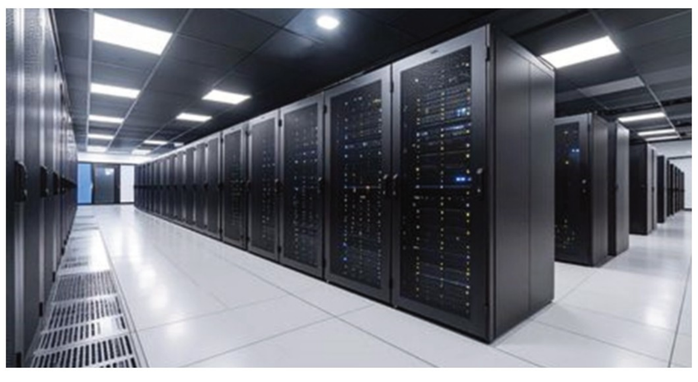
NEW DELHI

About 62 per cent of global capability centre (GCC) bases in India's flex spaces operate from green-certified buildings, while 85 per cent function from premium grade-A centres, according to a new report by Vestian. Among the top seven cities, 42 per cent of flex centres are green-certified and 69 per cent are located in grade-A buildings.

India currently hosts over 1,750 GCC companies with nearly 3,800 bases, creating demand for more than 40 per cent of total office space in the past two years. Of the 1,400 flex centres across major tier-1 cities, over 475 host GCC operations.

"Flex operators remain key partners, offering speed, flexibility, and enterprise-grade infrastructure that global companies need to scale efficiently," said Shrinivas Rao, CEO of Vestian.

Peripheral Business Districts (PBDs) are increasingly preferred for expansion due to strong connectivity, competitive costs, scalability, and larger campuses. Currently,



77 per cent of flex space occupied by GCCs is in peripheral areas, compared with 61 per cent of overall flex stock.

Driven by GCC demand, India's flex ecosystem now spans 82.3 million square feet across nearly 1,400 centres in the top seven cities. The market is concentrated, with the top 10 operators controlling 67 per cent of total space. Bengaluru leads with 33.2 per cent share, followed by Delhi-NCR at 20.4 per cent and Pune at 14.7 per cent.

Vestian projects India's flex stock to exceed 100 million square feet in tier-1 cities by 2026, as operators expand and upgrade portfolios to meet the growing requirements of GCCs. This reflects a steady shift toward sustainable, high-quality infrastructure for global enterprises in India.

Schroeder late three lifts Kings past rockets

Schroder drilled a clutch overtime three, leading bench spark with 24 points, 10 rebounds, seven assists to win

SACRAMENTO

Dennis Schroder delivered a dramatic finish as the Sacramento Kings edged the Houston Rockets 125-124 in overtime, snapping a five-game losing streak in thrilling fashion.

Schroder hit a clutch three-pointer with just 2.2 seconds left in overtime, sealing the win after the Kings staged a strong late comeback. Coming off the bench, he played a vital role and finished with 24 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists.

DeMar DeRozan led Sacramento with 27 points and nine assists, while Russell Westbrook added energy and toughness with 21 points and 13 rebounds. Keegan Murray chipped in with 26 points, and Maxime Raynaud recorded a solid double-double with 12 points and 14 rebounds.

Sacramento forced overtime after trailing late in regulation. With the Rockets leading 112-107, DeRozan scored on a dunk and Westbrook followed with a corner three-pointer to tie the game and push it beyond regulation. The overtime period saw several lead changes and rising tension. Houston briefly went ahead when Jabari Smith Jr. made two free throws for a 124-122 lead. Moments later, DeRozan drove into the lane and calmly passed to an open Schroder in the left corner, who knocked down the winning shot.

For Houston, Alperen Sengun scored 28 points, Kevin Durant added 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Smith finished with 18 points. Durant had a final chance to respond but missed a jumper at the buzzer.

The Rockets started slowly but rallied strongly in the second quarter to take control before the Kings' late surge turned the game around and delighted the home crowd.

Bayern Munich end year strong with Heidenheim Rout

BERLIN

Bayern Munich ended the year firmly in control of the Bundesliga after a dominant 4-0 away win over bottom side Heidenheim, moving nine points clear at the top before the winter break.

Despite missing several senior players, coach Vincent Kompany's team controlled the match from the opening whistle. Bayern kept most of the possession, passed with confidence and forced Heidenheim to defend deep for long periods.

The visitors took the lead in the 15th minute when Michael Olise's corner was headed back across goal by Jonathan Tah, allowing Josip Stanisic to score from close range.

Bayern doubled their advantage in the 32nd minute. Goalkeeper Diant Ramaj failed to deal with a long ball, Hiroki Ito kept the move alive and Olise finished calmly to make it 2-0.

Heidenheim showed more fight after halftime and came close to scoring. Stefan Schimmer hit the crossbar with a header, while Arijon Ibrahimovic fired over the bar soon after. Bayern also created chances, with Harry Kane striking the post.

Heidenheim fought back after halftime, nearly scoring; Schimmer hit the crossbar, Ibrahimovic missed, while Bayern also threatened, with Kane striking the post in a tense contest

The match remained under Bayern's control as the visitors introduced young debutants and managed the tempo well. Luis Diaz added a third goal in the 86th minute with a header from Stanisic's cross.

Kane completed the scoring in stoppage time with his 19th league goal, marking his 100th Bundesliga goal contribution.

Bayern now sit on 41 points from 15 matches. Heidenheim remain second from bottom on 11 points. Kane later said Bayern were strong early, slightly careless after the break, but deserved winners. The result underlined their title ambition and sent a clear warning to rivals before football pauses for winter weeks.

Fox powers spurs past Wizards in Washington

WASHINGTON

De'Aaron Fox powered the San Antonio Spurs to a 124-113 win over the Washington Wizards, scoring a game-high 27 points and hitting five three-pointers. The victory was San Antonio's sixth in seven games and its second over Washington in four days. Luke Kornet dominated inside with 20 points and 12 rebounds, while Stephon Castle contributed 18 points and 11 assists. Victor Wembanyama, easing back from a calf strain, finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds in under 22 minutes off the bench. The Spurs broke the game open in the second quarter, outscoring Washington 43-21 to build a 20-point halftime lead. Washington rested Alex Sarr and Khris Middleton, and although Bub Carrington scored 21 points, the Wizards never cut the deficit below nine. The loss was Washington's fourth straight at home, as San Antonio continued gaining momentum late in season.

Buyuktuncel triple-double powers Nebraska to big win

LINCOLN

Berke Buyuktuncel recorded an impressive triple-double as No. 15 Nebraska pulled away in the second half to defeat North Dakota 78-55.

Buyuktuncel finished with 12 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, guiding the Huskers after a slow shooting start in the opening half. The victory helped Nebraska improve to 12-0, marking the best start in the program's history.

Nebraska struggled early and trailed for much of the first half, but the team responded strongly after the break. The Huskers opened the second half with a decisive 19-6 run, quickly changing the momentum of the game. Buyuktuncel gave Nebraska its first lead just over a minute into the half with a free throw.

Braden Frager provided a spark off the bench, leading Nebraska with 17 points. Sam Hoiberg added 15 points, while Jamarques Lawrence contributed 13, including a key three-pointer that helped stretch the lead. Nebraska's balanced scoring proved too much for North Dakota to handle. North Dakota briefly regained the lead midway through the second half on a three-pointer by Garrett Anderson. However, Nebraska responded immediately. Buyuktuncel, Lawrence and Hoiberg combined for 11 points during a 13-0 run that pushed the Huskers firmly ahead.

As the game progressed, Nebraska tightened its defense and controlled the boards, steadily increasing the gap. The Huskers built their largest lead at 25 points and never allowed North Dakota to mount a serious comeback. The visitors were unable to get closer than 10 points in the final nine minutes. Eli King led North Dakota with 13 points, while Marley Curtis added 10. Despite their effort, North Dakota struggled to keep pace once Nebraska found its rhythm. The win highlighted Nebraska's depth, composure and growing confidence. With strong teamwork and consistent defense, the Huskers continue to look like a serious force as the season moves forward.

McDavid shines as Oilers edge Golden Knights

EDMONTON

Connor McDavid led from the front with a goal and two assists as the Edmonton Oilers held on for a 4-3 win over the Vegas Golden Knights.

McDavid opened the scoring midway through the first period and later set up two power-play goals for Ryan Nugent-Hopkins. Zach Hyman also scored and added an assist, while Leon Draisaitl chipped in with two assists as Edmonton built a commanding early lead.

The Oilers came out with strong intent after a loss in Minnesota the previous night. They raced to a 4-0 advantage in the second period, putting heavy pressure on Vegas goaltender Carter Hart. Edmonton looked in full control at that stage, moving the puck quickly and taking advantage of special teams chances.

Goaltender Connor Ingram made his Edmonton debut and first NHL appearance of the season. He stopped 26 shots and remained calm despite late pressure from Vegas. Ingram last played in the league with Utah before entering the NHL Players Assistance Program earlier this year.

Vegas mounted a comeback attempt after Tomas Hertl scored on a power play in the second period. Hertl later assisted on goals by Mitch Marner and Pavel Dorofeyev in the third, with Marner also scoring with the man advantage. Noah Hanifin registered three assists for the Golden Knights. Despite the push, Edmonton held firm in the final minutes to secure the victory. The win improved the Oilers' record to 18-13-6. They have now won three of their last four games and continue to show a strong trend when scoring first.

Vegas, meanwhile, suffered a third straight loss and will look to regroup quickly as the season moves forward.

Maye sparks Patriots comeback to seal playoff spot

BALTIMORE

The New England Patriots are back in the NFL playoffs after a thrilling 28-24 comeback win over the Baltimore Ravens, led by quarterback Drake Maye's calm and confident performance.

Trailing by 11 points in the fourth quarter, the Patriots showed strong belief and sharp execution when it mattered most. Maye guided two crucial touchdown drives, turning the game around and crushing Baltimore's playoff hopes in front of their home crowd.

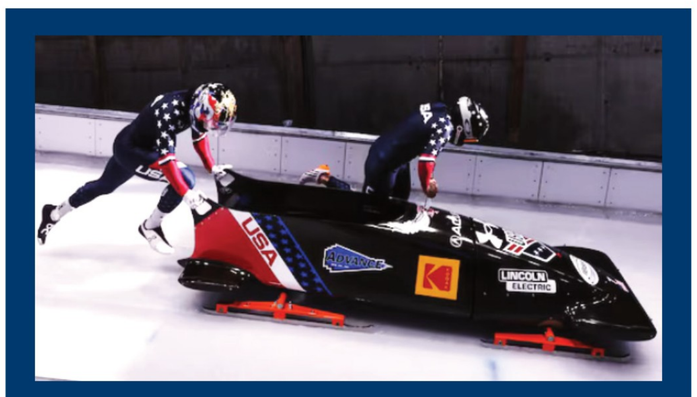
With New England down 24-13, Maye fired a 37-yard touchdown pass to Kyle Williams to bring life back into the contest. He then showed great awareness by completing a two-point conversion pass to Rhamondre Stevenson, cutting the gap to just three points with over nine minutes remaining. The comeback reflected the growing maturity of Maye, who finished with a career-high 380 passing yards and two touchdowns. His steady leadership has helped New England return to the postseason in just his second year as starting quarterback.

Head coach Mike Vrabel praised his players after the game, saying the win belonged to the team and that the Patriots would now focus on chasing the division title.

This playoff return comes seven years after Tom Brady and Bill Belichick won their final Super Bowl together, and four years after the team last reached the postseason. While the names have changed, the winning feeling has returned to Foxborough.

Baltimore, meanwhile, suffered a major setback. The Ravens were unable to protect their late lead and now face serious pressure in the playoff race.

For New England, the victory confirmed what fans have begun to believe. With Maye in charge and confidence growing, the Patriots once again look ready for January football and bigger challenges ahead.



Kaillie Humphries wins World Cup after maternity break

SIGULDA

Kaillie Humphries marked a major milestone in her career by claiming her first Bobsleigh World Cup victory since 2023, signalling a strong return as she prepares for the 2026 Winter Olympics.

The American bobsledder, now 40, teamed up with Emily Renna to win the two-woman World Cup event in Sigulda, Latvia, ending a long wait to return to the top step of the podium. The victory was especially meaningful as it came after Humphries took a season-long break from the sport during her pregnancy.

Humphries has enjoyed a remarkable career across two nations. She won Olympic gold medals for Canada in the two-woman bobsleigh at the 2010 Vancouver Games and the 2014 Sochi Olympics, along with a bronze medal at the 2018 Pyeongchang Games. After switching allegiance to the United States, she added a monobob gold medal at the 2022 Beijing Olympics.

Her last World Cup win before Sunday's race also came in Sigulda in February 2023. Since then, she stepped away from competition to focus on motherhood before returning to the ice this season with renewed motivation.

Speaking after the race, Humphries described the win as deeply emotional. She said returning to victory after three years felt special and called it her first win as a mother. She also highlighted the moment as a career first for teammate Emily Renna, making the result even more memorable.

Humphries said the victory felt like a perfect early Christmas gift for both athletes and the wider team. The result also boosts her confidence ahead of the 2026 Milano-Cortina Winter Olympics.

The bobsleigh events at the upcoming Games will be held in Cortina d'Ampezzo from February 12 to 22. With this win, Humphries has sent a clear message that she remains a serious contender on the world stage.

Morgan Rogers double lifts Aston Villa past United

BIRMINGHAM

Morgan Rogers scored two brilliant goals as Aston Villa beat Manchester United 2-1 at Villa Park, extending their winning run and strengthening their push near the top of the Premier League table.

The victory was Villa's seventh straight league win and their tenth in a row across all competitions. The result lifted the home side to third place with 36 points, keeping them firmly in the title race behind leaders Arsenal and Manchester City.

Villa were not at their best for much of the first half, but the match changed just before the break. In the 45th minute, John McGinn found Rogers with a precise pass. The 23-year-old showed great control, cut inside the box and curled a stunning shot into the top corner, giving Villa the lead.

Manchester United responded quickly. After Matty Cash lost possession near his own penalty area, Matheus Cunha struck the loose ball past Emiliano Martinez to level the score. However, United suffered a big setback when captain Bruno Fernandes was forced off at halftime due to injury.

Fernandes was replaced by defender Lisandro Martinez, who pushed forward and tried to help United regain control. Despite a brief spell of pressure, Villa soon struck again. In the 57th minute, Rogers repeated his magic, curling another fine effort beyond the goalkeeper to restore Villa's lead.

United tried to find an equaliser late on. Shea Lacey tested Martinez, while Mason Mount sent a free kick over the bar. Villa stayed calm and defended well to secure the win.

Rogers, who has now scored seven league goals this season, praised the supporters after the match and even gave his shirt to a fan. Villa Park celebrated loudly as another famous win was sealed.

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